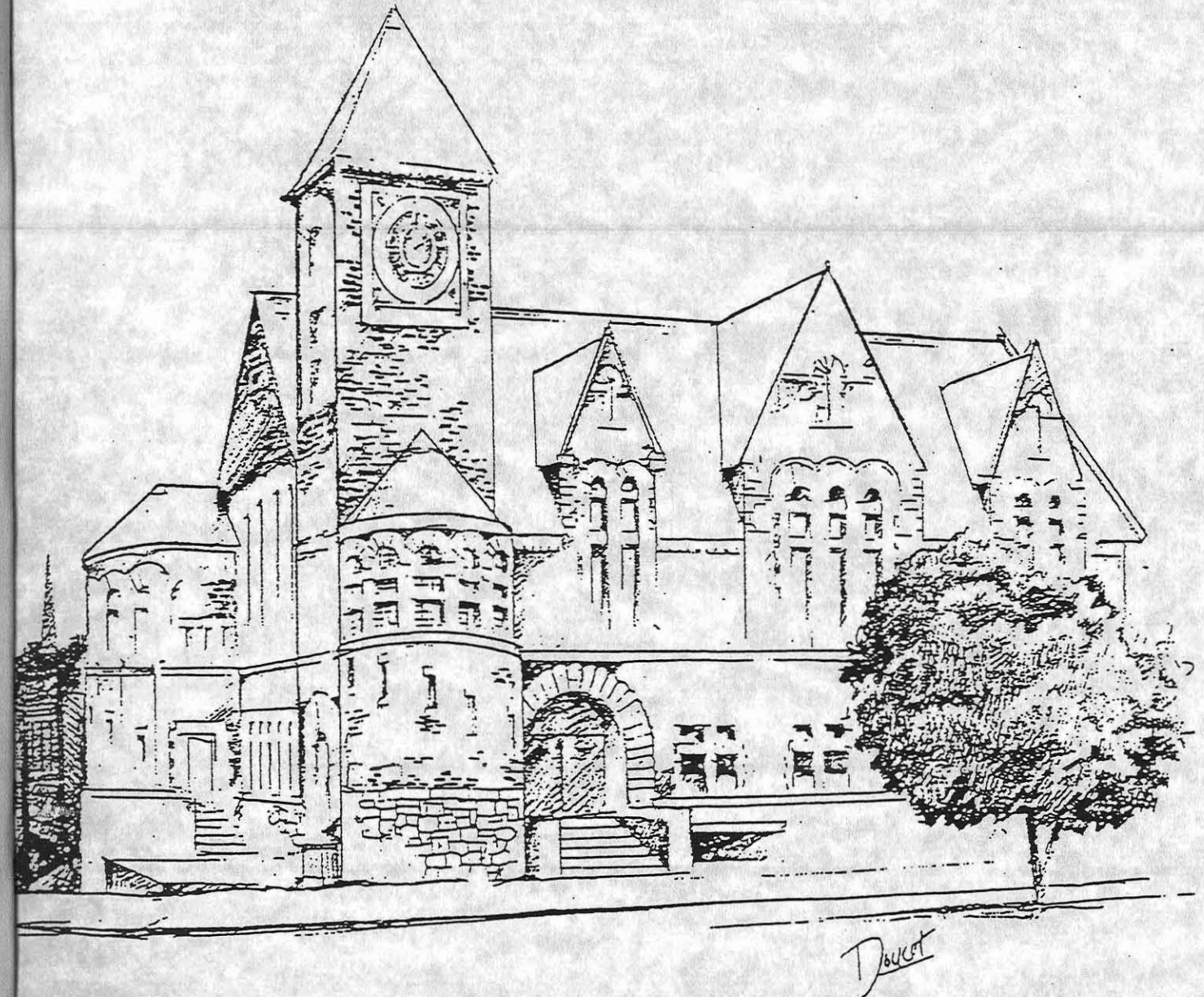
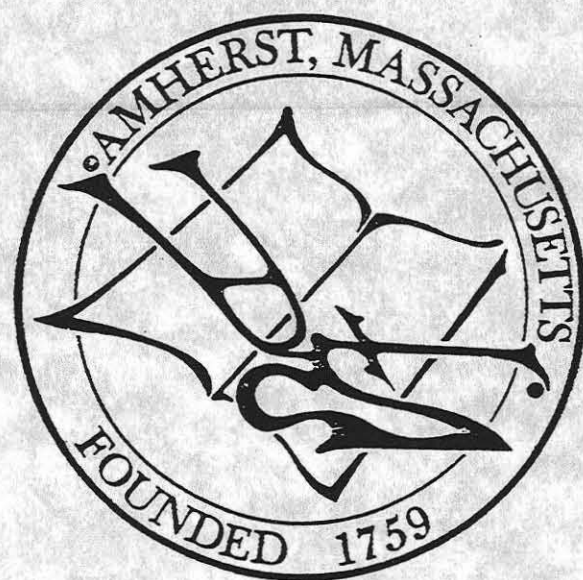


Town of Amherst



ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 1998

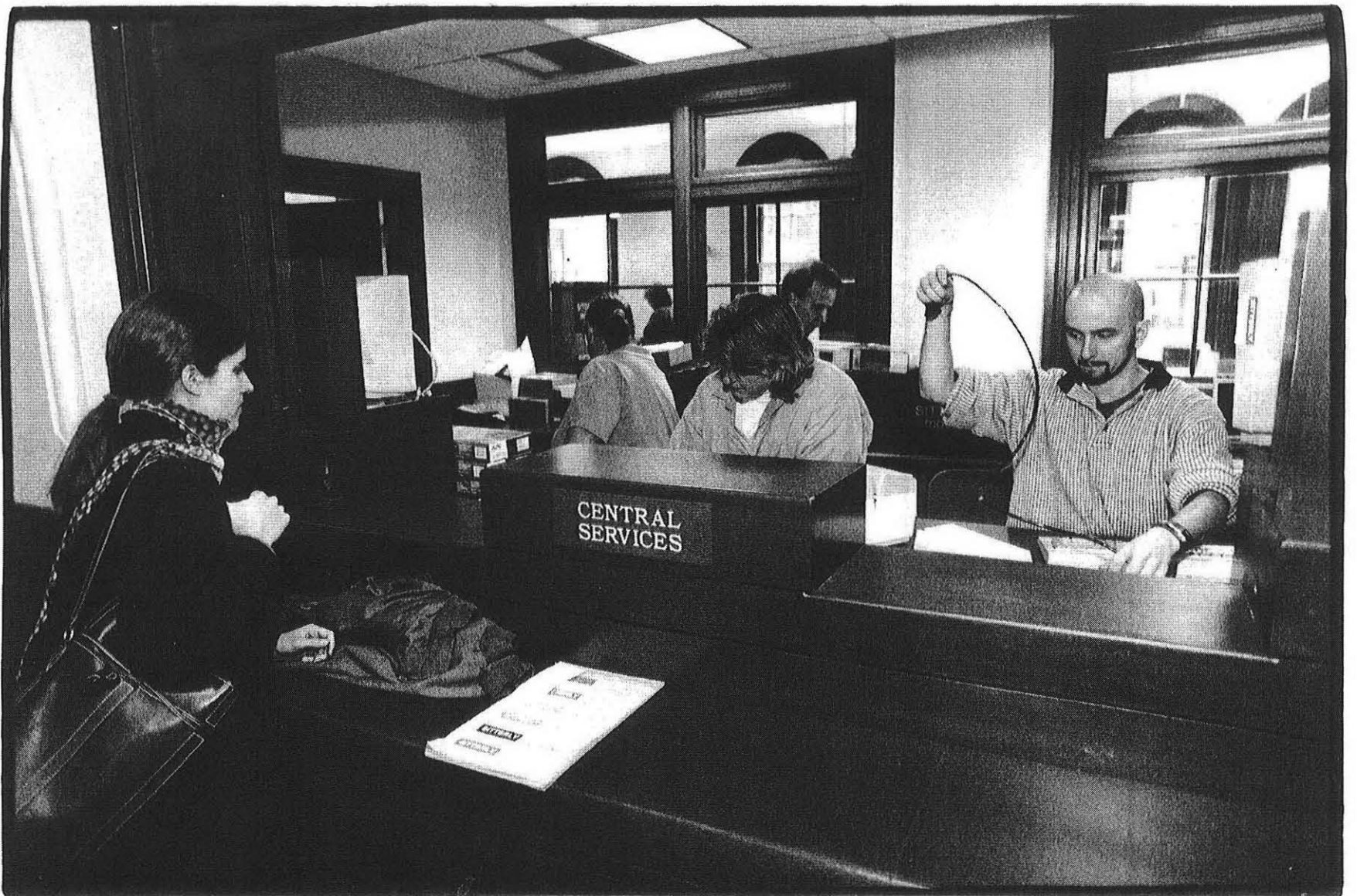
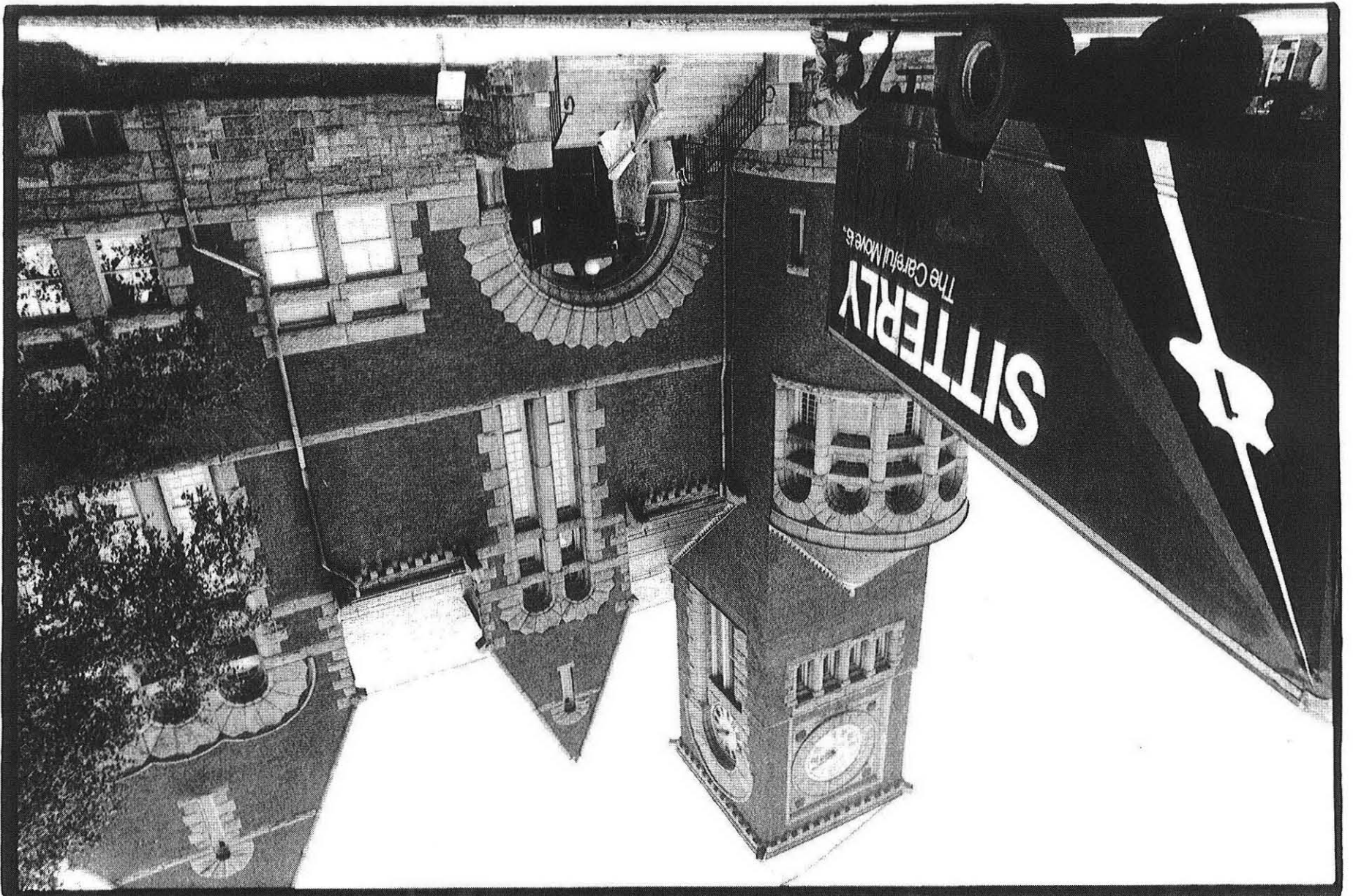


"The town seal was adopted at the 1960 annual town meeting. Originally designed by Frank A. Trapp, of the Amherst College faculty, for the town's bicentennial observance in 1959, it was so favorably received that the following year it was made the official seal of the town. The book and the plow symbolize education and agriculture, the two occupations principally pursued by the people of Amherst."

Table of Contents

Amherst/La Paz Centro, Nicaragua Sister City Committee	21
Appointed Municipal Employees	6
Assessor's Office	22
Buildings and Maintenance	28
Cherry Hill Advisory Committee	37
Children's Services	29
Civil Rights Review Commission	69
Committees and Boards	10
Committee Recognition	9
Comprehensive Plan Committee	33
Comptroller's Report -	146
Conservation Commission/Conservation Department	36
Council on Aging/Senior Center	38
Design Review Board	42
Disability Access Advisory Committee	45
Economic Development & Industrial Corporation (EDIC)	46
Finance Department	47
Fire Department	49
Health Department	57
Historical Commission	61
Housing Authority	62
Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee	68
Human Rights Director	69
Human Services Funding Committee	30
Inspection Services	71
Jones Library	79
Kanegasaki Sister City Committee	81
Leisure Services and Supplemental Education	83
Munson Library	88
Overall Economic Development Planning Committee	91
Personnel Board	92
Planning Board/Planning Department	93
Police Department	96
Public Art Commission	112
Public Transportation Committee	113
Public Works Department	116
Redevelopment Authority	130
Related Amherst Information	5
Select Board	16
Amherst-Pelham Regional School District	131
Amherst Schools	134
Solid Waste Committee	136
Town Clerk	165
Town/Commercial Relations Committee	138
Town Departments and Services	4
Town Meeting Study Committee	140
Town Manager	19
Town Meetings and Elections	166
Treasurer/Collector	141
Veterans' Services	144
Zoning Board of Appeals	145

"Moving-back-in day" at Town Hall



While Darren Godfrey rewires the office computers, Jane Kwasnik assists Sarah Johnson, the unofficial first customer, in the newly renovated Town Hall.



Norio Takahashi, Mayor of Kanegasaki, Japan, Amherst's Sister City, at the Town Hall rededication ceremony.

Photo courtesy Amherst Bulletin

At Your Service

TOWN OF AMHERST DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES

In Case of Emergency CALL 911 for Fire, Police, or Ambulance

Accounting	256-4026	Parks, Playgrounds, Swimming Pools	256-4065
Aging Services	256-4057	Planning Department, Planning Board	256-4040
Ambulance-Emergencies Only	911	Police Department:	256-4011
For Other Business	256-4080	Chief of Police	256-4016
Animal Control Officer	256-4011	Detective Bureau	256-4015
Assessments	256-4024	Records Bureau	256-4016
Building Permits, Inspections	256-4030	Rape Hotline	256-4011
Cherry Hill Golf Course	253-9935	Public Works Department	256-4050
Children's Services Department	256-4074	Recreation Department	256-4065
Community Development	256-4042	Redevelopment Authority	256-4040
Conservation Services	256-4045	Refuse Collection	256-4050
Council on Aging, Senior Center	256-4057	Schools:	
Design Review Board	256-4040	Administration	549-9810
Engineering	256-4029	Crocker Farm	256-6726
Finance Director	256-4022	Fort River	253-9731
Fire Department--To Report a Fire	911	Mark's Meadow	549-1507
For Other Business	256-4080	Wildwood	549-6300
General Information	256-4004	REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL	549-9701
Health Board, Health Department	256-4077	REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL	549-9846
Highways, Water, Sewer, Trees	256-4050	Select Board	256-4001
Housing Authority	256-0206/ 256-8128	Town Clerk	256-4035
Housing Planner	256-4040	Town Manager	256-4004
Housing Review Board	256-4007	Treasurer-Collector	256-4020
Human Resources	256-4009	Veteran's Services	256-4028
Leisure Services	256-4065	Vital Statistics, Records	256-4035
Libraries:		Voting, Registration	256-4035
Hours & Events	256-4094	Wastewater Treatment Plant	256-4055
Jones Library	256-4090	Weights and Measures	256-4030
Munson Memorial Library	256-4095	Wiring Permits	256-4030
North Amherst Library	256-4099	Zoning Permits	256-4032
English as a Second			
Language	256-4090		
Licenses:			
Dog, Fishing, Hunting, Marriage	256-4035		

RELATED AMHERST INFORMATION

U.S. SENATOR
Edward M. Kennedy
362 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. SENATOR
John Kerry
315 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
John W. Olver (1st District)
2300 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

STATE SENATOR
Stanley C. Rosenberg
(Franklin-Hampshire District)
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Ellen Story
(3rd Hampshire District)
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002

TAX RATE
\$19.20/\$1,000

Area
27.79 square miles

ELEVATION
313 feet above sea-level at Town Hall

LOCATION
Geodetic position of Town Hall
Latitude- 42 degrees 22'00" at Town Hall
Longitude-72 degrees 30'30"

ROAD MILEAGE
(not including State highways)
105.56 Miles

POPULATION
35,278 (source: 1990 Federal Census)

KEY:
+ Retired
++ Laid Off
* Resigned
** Deceased

*** Leave of Absence
@ Transferred
@@ Position Eliminated

APPOINTED MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

SELECT BOARD
Maciaszek, Anna M. Management Assistant II

TOWN MANAGER
Barry L. Del Castilho**
Karpinski, Joyce
Lass, Elizabeth

FINANCE DEPARTMENT
Nancy Maglione Director Finance & Administration

Accounting
*Mark A. Milne Comptroller
Aldrich, Sonia Assistant to Comptroller
Woodard, Theresa M. Customer Service Assistant II
Coope, Maria R. Financial Analyst
Marcoux-Lavigne, Louise Financial Assistant

Treasurer/Collector
Norma Lynch Treasurer/Collector
Boucher, Cheryl A. Assistant Collector
Hobart, Judith Assistant Treasurer

Customer Service Assistants
Cary, Cynthia** *Kwasnik, Jane J.
Lucia, Kim Olanyk, Patricia J.
Thornton, Kathleen

Assessors
David Burgess Principal Assessor
*Barker, Elliott R. III Appraiser
Georgiadis, Carolyn Fisher Customer Assistant I
***Kupras, April A. Administrative Assistant

HUMAN RESOURCES
Kay Zlogar Human Resources Director
Titus, Shenandoah Human Rights Director
Pollard, Kathleen M. Customer Assistant II

TOWN CLERK
Cornelia D. Como Town Clerk
Nartowicz, Margaret Z. Administrative Assistant

Customer Service Assistants
Burgess, Sandra Masloski, Susan
*Ruel, Heather

PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Victor J. Zumburski Fire Chief & Civil Defense Dir.
West-Davis, Vera** Secretary II

Assistant Fire Chiefs
+Bowler, George
Zlogar, Michael V. Brock, Patrick

Captains
Atteridge, Timothy Childs, Gary A.
Johnson, James B. Masloski, Timothy S.
McKay, Donald R. Sterling, Brian C.
Stromgren, Lindsay E. Tower, Alan R.

Firefighters
Adair, Robert W. Jr.*** Briere, Roland D.
***Correia, Mark Cowles, Robert B.
Doherty, Charles Donahue, Derrick
Gianetti, Lee P. Dunn, William T.
Gillispie, George Hannum, John S.
Ingram, John S. Klaus, William B. Jr.
Mard, Veronica Miner, David P.***
Olmstead, Heidi Olmstead, Jeffrey D.
Roy, Michael ***Schmohl, Charles P. Jr.
Sell, Jennifer Snowden, James
Tebo, Lawrence Theilman, Paul

FIRE DEPARTMENT - CALL FORCE
Mientka, Edward Call Deputy Chief

Call Captains
Cook, Robert Erickson, Donald

Call Lieutenants
Elmes, Derrick Gladu, Kevin
Mears, Richard Pomerantz, David

Call Firefighters
Cicia, Joshua *Coulombe, Daniel
*DiFlumeri, David *Gladu, Andrew
Gladu, Daniel *Ingram, Scott
Jenks, Eric Lindberg, Kristen
Losee, Jeanette Moreis, Eric
Patteson, David B. Presti, Andrea
Shanley, Joshua Thornton, Howard
Thornton, Jan E.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Donald N. Maia Police Chief
Smead, Janet*** Management Assistant II
Evans, Eleanor E. Information Specialist
Russell, Nancy K. Data Processing Specialist

Captains
Jankowski, David P. Scherpa, Charles L.

Lieutenants
Kent, Michael R. Roy, Jeffrey J.

Sergeants
Livingstone, Scott P.*** Millar, Jerry
O'Connor, Robert J. Pronovost, Christopher G.
Sullivan, Michael D. Sullivan, Timothy M. Jr.
Young, Ronald A.*

Patrol Officers

Carmichael, James	Chudzik, John M.
Daly, Brian	Demouras, James A.
Epiceno, Sabino S.★★	Fitzpatrick, James
Foster, David W.	Geary, Douglas J.
Gundersen, Jennifer A.	Guzik, Gary W.★★
Hobart, A. James	Jackson, Glenn M.
Jeronimo, Jose M.	Johnson, Brian
Johnson, Michael A.	Knightly, Christina
Knightly, David R.	Koski, William J.
Lang, Todd S.	Laramie, William R.
Magarian, Jamie	Menard, William N.
Nelson, Charles H.★	Newcomb, Linda
O'Connor, Thomas J.	Rhoades, David A.
Rivera, Jose A.	Scott, Michael
Ting, Gabriel	***Troy, Stephen J., Jr.
Walsh, Cindy	Zahn, Stephen E.

Parking Enforcement Officers

Curtis, Judith E.	MacKenzie, Llewellyn
Wheeler, Willie J.	

Special Police Officers

Dzwonkowski, Mitchell	Gedmin, John P.
Thayer, Donald E.	Wysocki, Walter J.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Rita K. Burke	Director
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Emergency Dispatchers

Banner, Joyce E.	*Beltrisi, Beij
Del Negro, Todd J	Harrison, Stephen
*Holton, Steven	Katzman, Sheldon★★
Misiazek, Ann L.	*Rau, Sheryl
*Roberts, Travis	Royce, James
Rumble, Terry M.	Turcotte, Trudy
Zeigler, Ivette	

INSPECTION SERVICES

Start, William L.★★★	Building Commissioner
Gormely, Richard A.	Building Inspector
Weeks, Bonita	Building Inspector
Choiniere, Paul E.	Wire Inspector
Lombard, Michael	Housing/Weights Inspector
Lynch, Lorraine	Administrative Assistant
French, Andrew K.	Plumbing Inspector
Staples, George W. Jr.	Gas Inspector

MAINTENANCE/CUSTODIAL STAFF

Markert, Edward R, Jr.	Maintenance Director
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Building Supervisors

Fuller, Richard A.	Lemek, Raymond
Mosakewicz, James K.★	

Building Assistants

Chalmers, Thomas P.	Decker, Mary G.
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PLANNING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT**CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**

Peter Westover	Conservation Services Director
*Donahue, Mary	Assistant Director
Anzuoni, Nicholas	Land Management Assistant

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Robert Mitchell	Planning Director
Kruger, Connie	Senior Planner
Tucker, Jonathan	Senior Planner
la Cour, Niels	Associate Planner
Krzanowski, Susan T.	Management Assistant I
Davis, Bridget	Secretary II

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Faye, Lynda	Program Assistant
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HUMAN SERVICES**COUNCIL ON AGING**

John Clobridge	Council on Aging Exec. Director
Pagano, Nancy	Program Director
Slovin, Barbara	Program Director
Taylor, Barbara	Secretary
Vanhoutte, Maureen F.	Secretary II

Jean Elder House Congregate Housing Coordinators

Plante, Maura E.	Torres, Eunice J.
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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Epi Bodhi	Health Director
Federman, Julie	Nurse
Zarozinski, David	Sanitarian

Tobacco Control Grant

Leach, Marlene★	Program Assistant
Cruz, Michelle S.	Secretary II

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Roy Rosenblatt	Children's Services Director
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VETERANS' SERVICES

Roderick Raubeson	Veterans' Agent & Graves Officer
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LEISURE SERVICES & SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION

Linda Chalfant ★	LSSE Director
*Jernigan, Candace	Management Assistant II
Kushi, Laurel	Administrative Assistant
Milville, Mark	Management Assistant I
*Yovina, Lynn	Management Assistant I

Customer Services Assistant I

Boutilier, Tracy-Lee	LaValley, Theresa
*Resurreccion, Maria	

Program Coordinators

Ralston, Esther	Ruhl, Steven W.
Stoia, Stephen J.	Thomas, Michael

CHERRY HILL GOLF COURSE

Daniel Engstrom	Golf Course Manager
Diggins, John II	Land Management Assistant

JONES LIBRARY

Bonnie Isman	Library Director
Radosh, Sondra	Asst. Director
O'Brien, Patricia M.	Reference Librarian
Peterson, Pauline	Reference Librarian
Lombardo, Daniel★★	Curator: Special Collections
Girshman, Beth★★	Adult Services Librarian
Anaya, Amy	Circulation Librarian
Asebrook, Cynthia	North Amherst Librarian
Hugus, Susan	Munson Memorial Librarian
Platt, Carolyn B.	Cataloger
Swift, Tina★	Management Assistant II
Weintraub, Lynne	ESL Coordinator
Rothberg, Seth	Circulation Supervisor
Verts, Catherine	Audiovisual Specialist
Boyle, Cathy	Cataloging Specialist
Teters, Jessica	Special Collections Specialist
+Maynard, Philip Sr.	Building Supervisor
Sullivan, Jeffrey★	Building Assistant
Riechert, Sonia	Clerk/Receptionist

Library Assistants

Atteridge, Theresa I.	Brinkerhoff, Sylvia★★
Comings, Cheryl	Lincoln, Judith
Pyfrom, Joan	Stokes, Lace

PUBLIC WORKS**ADMINISTRATION**

Noel Ryan	Superintendent of Public Works
Pariseau, Robert	Water Resources Director
James A. Smith	Town Engineer
McNamee, Cheryl A.	Assistant to the Superintendent
Bouthiette, Theresa	Secretary II

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Raskevitz, Paul D.	Division Supervisor
MacDonald, Robert	Mechanic
Willis, Rodney W.	Maintenance Worker

HIGHWAY DIVISION

Field, John	Division Director
Isabelle, Kenneth★★	Senior Crew Supervisor
Loven, Matthias	Senior Crew Supervisor
@Chalmers, Thomas P.	Laborer
Zakaitis, Robert Jr.	Laborer

Light Equipment Operators

Boucher, John	Drake, Charles III★
O'Brien, Timothy	+Robinson, Donald
Stacy, Gary L.	

Skilled Laborer/Truck Drivers

Banks, Timothy	Merzbach, Jan
Sabola, John D. Jr.	Woynar, Mark

LANDFILL

Paniczko, Edward M.	Senior Crew Supervisor
Zakaitis, Robert★★★★★	Heavy Equipment Operator
Langevin, Harvey A. Jr.	Laborer

PARKS AND COMMONS

Orrell, David	Division Supervisor
Kosloski, Todd	Skilled Laborer/Truck Driver
Bowser, Jeffrey	Laborer

RECYCLING

Fowler, Angela	Recycling Coordinator
Longto, Keith	Skilled Laborer/Truck Driver
Waterman, Thomas R.★	Laborer

TREE CARE AND PEST CONTROL

Sullivan, Thomas J	Division Supervisor
LaFountain, Daniel	Tree Maintenance Worker
Mitchell, Stanley	Skilled Laborer/Truck Driver

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT & PUMPING STATION

Laford, James	Division Supervisor
Felton, Frederick C.	Mechanic/Supervisor
Gannon, Gary	Mechanic
Dunbar, Linda	Lab Technician
Crowley, John	Skilled Laborer/Truck Driver

Crew Supervisor/Operators

Bellino, Michael	Klimczyk, Duane
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Plant Operators

Doyle, John F.	Miraglia, Joseph J.
Ritter, Harry	*Sheldon, William

WATER DIVISION

Osborne, Jeffrey C.	Division Director
Kosloski, William G.	Division Supervisor
Worthley, William B.	Meter Maintenance Worker
Hagar, Darryl	Maintenance Worker
Clark, Henry D.	Meter Reader

Treatment Operators

Call, Stephen	Luippold, Thomas
Szwed, Michael	

Skilled Laborer/Truck Driver

@Banks, Timothy H., Jr.	Orrell, Robert J.
Skribiski, John M.	

★ Denotes recognition of 10 years of service.
 ★★ Denotes recognition of 15 years of service.
 ★★★ Denotes recognition of 20 years of service.
 ★★★★ Denotes recognition of 25 years of service.
 ★★★★★ Denotes recognition of 30 years of service.

*Town of Amherst
Committee Recognition*

The Town of Amherst relies on the energy and commitment of citizens who participate each year on the many boards and committees that are an integral part of our form of government. These citizens volunteer their time and expertise to help improve the quality of life in our community. The Town is indeed fortunate to be able to depend on the hard work and dedication of its committee members. The following citizens have completed their service of at least two full, three-year terms.

SELECT BOARD APPOINTEES:

Amherst Cultural Council

Yvonne Mendez 1992-1998

Amherst Farm Committee

Barbara Mitchell 1990-1998

Amherst/La Paz Centro

Richard Haven 1989-1998

Miriam Hirschfield 1992-1998

Albert Woodhull 1992-1998

Civil Rights Review Committee

Sarah Dreher 1990-1998

Martha Faison 1990-1998

Design Review Board

Ann Sinclair 1992-1998

Human Service Funding Committee

Anne Cann 1992-1998

June George 1990-1998

Public Transportation Committee

Lorna Peterson 1989-1998

Arthur Swift 1990-1998

Town Hall Building Committee

Allen Torrey 1989-1997

TOWN MANAGER APPOINTEES:

Aquifer Protection Committee

Dana Snyder 1989-1998

Board of Assessors

Max Stosz 1992-1998

Cable Advisory Committee

Steve Figovsky 1990-1998

Michael Sullivan 1990-1998

Council on Aging

Joan O'Meara 1992-1998

**TOWN OF AMHERST COMMITTEES AND BOARDS
FY 1998**

KEY: SB = Select Board Appointment
TM = Town Manager Appointment
M = Moderator Appointment
CC = Conservation Commission Appointment
C = Chair
D = Deceased

V-C = Vice-Chair
ALT = Alternate
G-A = Governor Appointee
R = Resigned
TC = Term Completion

ELECTED OFFICIALS

	Elected	Expires
<u>Amherst School Committee</u>		
Ann Benson (TC)	1995	1998
Sandra Berkowitz	1996	1999
Barbara Love	1998	2001
Vladimir Morales	1996	2000
Nancy Ratner (V-C)	1994	2000
Myra Ross (C)	1992	2001

Elector, Oliver Smith Will

David Farnham 1994 1999

Housing Authority

Judith Brooks	1994	2000
Mark Enoch (G-A)	1993	2002
Joan Ross Logan	1981	2002
Kenneth Mosakowski(C)	1979	1999
Geraldine Pawley	1995	2001

Jones Library Trustees

Allan Carpenter	1991	2000
Kent Faerber	1996	1999
Nancy Gregg	1996	1999
Arthur Quinton (Pres)	1990	2001
John Roberts	1987	2001
Peter Shea	1993	2000

Moderator

Harrison Gregg 1994 1999

Redevelopment Authority

Staff Liaison: C. Kruger

Larry Kelley	1997	2000
Robert Rivard (R)	1993	1998
Nathan Salwen	1997	2000
Carl Seppala	1997	2003
John (Curt) Shumway	1996	2001
Frances VanTreese	1994	1999

	Elected	Expires
<u>Select Board</u>		
Hill Boss	1994	2000
Homer Cowles	1994	1999
Bryan Harvey (C)	1991	2001
Dolly Jolly	1998	2001
Brenna Kucinski (V-C)(TC)	1992	1998
Eva Schiffer (V-C)	1996	1999

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Advisory Committee on Children's Services (SB)

Staff Liaison: R. Rosenblatt

Jacqueline Brown-Hazard	1995	1998
Hilda Golden	1995	1998
Riki Hing	1993	1999
Rose Ihedigbo	1991	2000
Amy Mittelman (TC)	1995	1998
Renée Moss	1987	1999
Stephanie Palladino	1993	1999

Amherst Cultural Council (SB)

Staff Liaison: S. Radosh

Fred Chapelliquen	1994	1999
Amy Corey	1996	1999
Carol Lee	1997	2000
Kathryn McCue	1994	1999
Yvonne Mendez (C)(TC)	1992	1998
Anita Page (Co-Treas)	1997	1998
Peter Schneider (Co-Treas)	1996	1999

Amherst Farm Committee (SB)

Staff Liaison: P. Westover

Bruce Coldham	1996	1999
Robert Comings	1995	2000
Gordon Fletcher-Howell	1995	1998
Barbara Marks(TC)	1995	1998
Barbara Mitchell (C)(TC)	1987	1998
Joseph Waskiewicz	1987	1998

Amherst/La Paz Centro, Nicaragua Sister City Committee (SB)

Dean Allen	1998	2001
Page Bancroft (Co-C)	1987	1999
Celinda Ezzell-Floranina	1998	2001
Carolyn Haven (D)	1995	1998
Richard Haven (Co-C)(TC)	1988	1998
Miriam Hirschfeld (R)	1989	1999
Faythe Turner	1987	1999
Albert Woodhull (TC)	1987	1998

Aquifer Protection Committee (TM)

Staff Liaison: J. Smith

Ann Forsyth	1996	1999
Chadwick Johnson	1995	1999
Stephen Mabey (C)	1993	1998
W. Jesse Schwalbaum	1997	2000
Dana Snyder (TC)	1989	1998

Arts Fund Balance Committee (SB)

Dissolved 6/29/98

Ann Benson	1998	1998
Karen Brown	1998	1998
Stephen Calcagnino	1998	1998
Daniel Grant	1998	1998
Carolyn Holstein	1998	1998
Peter Lobdell (Co-C)	1998	1998
Yvonne Mendez	1998	1998
Richard O'Brien	1998	1998
Anita Page	1998	1998
Lynn Peterfreund (Co-C)	1998	1998

Assessors, Board of (TM)

Staff Liaison: D. Burgess

Judson Hastings	1991	2000
Max Stosz, Jr.(C)(TC)	1992	1998
Jean Thompson	1994	1999

Cable Advisory Committee (TM)

Staff Liaisons: N. Ryan, N. Maglione

Steve Figovsky (V-C)(R)	1990	1999
Paul Lind	1990	1998
Michael Sullivan	1990	1998
Anne Teschner (C)	1991	1999
Ryan Willey	1997	2000

Cherry Hill Advisory Committee (TM)

Staff Liaison: P. Westover

Laura Fitch (R)	1995	1998
William Harris	1998	2000
Scott Lindell	1996	2000
Craig Meadows	1994	1999
John Scanlan	1987	2000
Manuel Townes	1993	1999
Bernard Wilkes (C)	1987	1999

Civil Rights Review Commission (SB)

Staff Liaison: S. Titus

Sandra de Jesus (TC)	1994	2000
Sarah Dreher (TC)	1990	1998
Raymond Elliott	1993	1999
Martha Faison (Co-C)(TC)	1990	1998
George Levinger (Co-C)	1993	1999
Hector Ruiz	1996	1999
Karen Stevens	1998	2001
Raul Torres	1995	2000
Irma Torres-Flores	1998	2000

Commission on Civility & Community Relations (SB)

Dissolved FY98

David Blackburn	1994	1997
Joanne Levenson	1994	1997
Cynthia Stefan	1994	1997

Comprehensive Planning Commission (SB)

Staff Liaisons: R. Mitchell, N. la Cour

Ann Benson (TC)	1997	1998
Barbara Bilz (TC)	1997	1998
Stephen Calcagnino (TC)	1997	1998
Elisa Campbell	1997	1998
Bruce Coldham (Co-C)	1997	1998
Janice Denton	1997	1998
Eddy Goldberg	1997	1998
Robert Grose	1997	1998
Peter W. Jessop	1997	1998
Ray Kinoshita (TC)	1997	1998
Ellen Knox	1997	1998
John Kuhn (Co-C)	1997	1998
Adrian Magrath	1998	1998
Shirley Packard	1997	1998
Elizabeth Trahan	1997	1998
Jane Weisner (R)	1997	1998

Conservation Commission (TM)

Staff Liaison: P. Westover

Kenneth Bergstrom (R)	1994	2000
Richard Brown	1994	2000
Robert Comings	1994	2000
James Ellis	1996	1999
Elizabeth French (R)	1995	1999
Ellen Knox (Associate)	1991	
James Scott (C)	1990	1999
Karen Searcy	1991	1998
O.T. Zajicek (Associate)	1996	

Council on Aging (TM)

Staff Liaison: J. Clobridge

Esther Almeida	1994	2000
Isaac BenEzra	1997	2000
Benson Bowditch	1996	1999
Dorothy Burke	1997	2000
Albert Chevan (V-C)	1996	1999
Ilsa Myers	1993	1999

Joan O'Meara (TC)	1992	1998
Shirley Packard (C)	1994	2000
Vera Peterson (TC)	1996	1998

Design Review Board (SB)

Staff Liaison: J. Tucker

Christine Brestrup	1993	1999
Ruth Jones (Hist. Rep.)	1994	2000
Henry Lu (Pl. Bd.)	1997	1998
Beth Russell	1994	2000
Ann Sinclair (TC)	1992	1998

Disability Access Advisory Committee (TM)

Staff Liaison: S. Titus

Isaac BenEzra	1996	1999
Rosemary Brown (TC)	1991	1998
Seren Derin (C)	1991	2000
Raymond Elliott	1993	1999
Dana Goddard	1991	2000
Myra Ross (TC)	1991	1996
Paul Winske	1998	2001

Eastern Hampshire Regional Refuse District Board of Supervisors (SB)

Jane Ricard	1994	1998
Paul Rothery	1994	2000
Stanley Ziomek	1990	1999

Economic Development Coordinating

Committee/Local Partnership Economic

Development Committee/Overall Economic

Development Program Committee (OEDP) (SB)

Dissolved 6/30/98

Staff Liaison: R. Mitchell

Stephen Calcagnino	1996	1998
Frank Cannon	1997	1999
Jaymie Chernoff	1993	1998
Nancy Deprosse	1993	1998
Kelly Erwin	1994	1998
Eddy Goldberg	1996	1999
Greg Romboletti	1993	1998
Paul Rothery	1996	1998
Christopher Ryan	1993	1998
Kathleen Teagno	1993	1998
Lester Whitney	1997	1998

Economic Development and Industrial

Corporation

Staff Liaison: C. Kruger

Frank Cannon	1997	1999
Neil Karkus (R)	1997	2000
Adrian Magrath	1997	1998
Richard Mudgett	1997	1999
Paul Rothery (V-C)	1997	2000
Sandra Sacco (TC)	1997	1998
Jane Weisner (C)	1997	2000
Lester Whitney	1997	2000

Emergency Medical Services (TM)

Staff Liaison: V. Zumburski

Samuel Gladstone	1992	1998
Arthur Pickering	1989	1998
Edith Ralph	1989	1998

Fence Viewer (TM)

Staff Liaison: J. Smith

Robert Romer	1984	1998
James Smith		1998

Field Driver (TM)

Staff Liaison: J. Smith

Robert Zakaitis		1998
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Finance Committee (M)

Staff Liaison: N. Maglione

Ed Bisson (V-C)(R)	1991	1998
Carlton Brose	1998	2000
Alice Carlozzi (C)	1993	1999
Marilyn Gonter	1994	2000
Brian Morton	1996	1999
Margot Parrot	1995	1999
Arthur Swift	1998	2001
Charles Turcotte (R)	1997	2000
Katherine Vorwerk Feldman	1995	2001

Hampshire Co. LEPC

Michael Zlogar	1998	1999
Paul Lawler	1998	1999
David Jankowski	1998	1999

Health, Board of (TM)

Staff Liaison: E. Bodhi

David Buchanan	1996	1998
Samuel Gladstone (Co-C) (R)	1994	2000
Marisela Latimer	1993	1999
Amy Rothenberg	1997	2000
Orlando Sola-Gomez	1998	2001
Valerie Steinberg (Co-C)	1994	1999

Historical Commission (TM)

Staff Liaison: J. Smith

Carol Birtwistle	1995	2000
Marie Burbine-Twohig	1995	1998
Cynthia Dickinson	1997	2000
Donald Frizzle	1994	1999
Ellen Goodwin (TC)	1994	1998
Robin Karson	1994	1999
Perry Thompson	1997	2000

Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee (SB)

Staff Liaison: C. Kruger

Kathleen Anderson (R)	1996	1999
Diane Hamill	1998	2001
Joanne Levenson (TC)	1987	1998
Madelaine Marquez	1989	2000

Vladimir Morales	1995	1998
Serena Neyman	1995	1999

Human Services Funding Committee (SB)

Staff Liaison: R. Rosenblatt

Deborah Brown	1997	1999
Anne Cann (TC)	1992	1998
June George (C) (TC)	1990	1998
Alan Harchik	1994	2000
Jonathan Klate	1994	1999

Insurance Advisory Committee (SB)

Staff Liaison: K. Zlogar

Richard Jenks	1997	
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Kanegasaki Sister City Committee (SB)

Staff Liaison: B. Del Castilho

Sara Berger (TC)	1995	1998
Tak Inouye	1996	1999
Ruth Owen Jones	1998	2001
Sovan-Komar Loeung	1996	1999
Kathleen Masalski (C)	1994	1999
Anna Pearce	1995	1998
Carolyn Peelle	1995	1998
Louise Reilly	1994	1998
Steve Ruhl	1998	2000

LSSE Commission (TM)

Staff Liaison: L. Chalfant

Barbara Bilz	1993	1999
Mary Custard	1993	1999
Joel Feinman	1993	1999
Gerald Grady	1998	2000
Byron Koh	1992	1998

Measurer of Wood (TM)

Staff Liaison: W. Start

Paul Jones	1983	1998
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Munson Memorial Building Trustees (TM)

Staff Liaison: N. Markert

Madge Ertel	1996	1999
Janet Gorth (TC)	1996	1998
Betsey Johnson (R)	1994	2000
Shirley Lauder	1997	2000

Overall Economic Development Planning

Committee (SB)

Staff Liaison: C. Kruger

Jaymie Chernoff	1998	2001
Kelly Erwin	1998	2001
Robert Green	1998	2001
Eddy Goldberg	1998	2001
Renee Moss	1998	2001
Terry O'Keefe	1998	2001
Frances Van Treese	1998	2001
Jane Weisner	1998	2001

Parking Commission (SB)

Staff Liaison: J. Smith

Ruth Backes (TC)	1997	1998
Chick Delano (R)	1996	1999
Seren Derin	1995	2000
M. Dooley-Lawrence (R)	1994	1997
Sarah Fischer	1992	1997
Peter Grandonico (C)	1992	1997
Robin Jaffin (R)	1996	1999
Margaret Roberts	1994	1997
Elizabeth Trahan	1993	1999

Parking Garage Building Committee (SB)

Dissolved 12/15/97

Elisa Campbell	1997	1998
Michael Cann	1997	1998
Neil Karkus (R)	1997	1998
Henry Lu	1997	1998
Renee Moss	1997	1998
Margaret Roberts	1997	1998
David Williams	1997	1998

Parking Garage Building Committee (SB)

New Committee Appointed 12/15/97

Staff Liaison: Markert, Start, Tucker

Elisa Campbell	1997	1998
Gordon Fletcher-Howell	1997	1998
Frederic Hartwell	1997	1998
Peter Kitchell	1997	1998
Paul Lawler	1997	1998
Henry Lu	1997	1998
Alan Peterfreund	1997	1998
Margaret Roberts	1997	1998
Carl Seppala	1997	1998

Personnel Board (SB)

Staff Liaison: K. Zlogar

Nancy Gregg	1996	1999
Marcie Sclove	1995	1999
Dolores Sutton	1996	1998
Fran Taylor-Anderson (R)	1995	1998

Planning Board (TM)

Staff Liaison: R. Mitchell

Ruth Backes (TC)	1995	1998
Bruce Coldham	1995	1998
Ann Forsyth (R)	1996	1999
Eddy Goldberg	1996	1999
Robert Grose	1997	1999
Frederick Hartwell	1996	1998
Ray Kinoshita	1997	2000
Frank McNerney	1997	2000
William O'Neil (C)	1994	2000

Public Art Commission (SB)

Richard Bentley	1994	2000
Anne Burton	1994	2000
Edith Byron	1994	1999

Hanlyn Davies	1995	2000
Richard O'Brien (C)	1994	2000
Charlene Scott	1995	2000
Jeffrey Tenenbaum	1994	2000

Public Transportation (SB)

Staff Liaison: J. Clobridge

David Ahlfeld	1998	2000
Marianne Jakus	1995	2000
Rob Kusner	1991	1998
Mark McDonald (R)	1996	1999
Lorna Peterson (TC)	1989	1998
Nathan Salwen	1996	1998
Margie Springer-Young	1997	2000
Arthur Swift (C) (TC)	1990	1998
Elizabeth Trahan	1993	1999
Merrylees Turner	1997	1999

Public Works Committee (SB)

Staff Liaison: N. Ryan

Barbara Ford	1991	1999
Steve Puffer	1989	1998

Registrar of Voters (SB)

Staff Liaison: C. Como

Cornelia Como		
Robert McAllister	1993	1999
Gladys Rodrigues	1995	1998
Robert White (R)	1991	2000

Solid Waste Committee (TM)

Staff Liaisons: N. Ryan, A. Fowler

Dean Allen	1994	2000
Pat Church	1997	1999
Jack Finn	1996	1999
Barbara Francis	1998	2001
Robert Greeney	1994	1998
Carolyn Holstein	1997	2000
Ellen Knox (C)	1996	1999
Edward Rising	1995	1998

Town/Commercial Relations Committee (SB)

Staff Liaison: J. Tucker

Robert Brooks	1993	1999
M. Dooley Lawrence (R)	1994	1998
Stephen Freedman (C)	1995	1998
John Furbish (TC)	1995	1998
Robert Green	1997	1998
Pauline Lannon	1996	1999
Kathleen Masalski	1993	1999
Nick Seamon	1996	1998
Kathleen Teagno (TC)	1993	1998

Town Hall Building Committee (SB)

Dissolved October 1997

Staff Liaison: N. Markert

Daniel Boisclair	1992	1997
Michael Cann	1995	1996

Robin Karson	1995	1999
Paul Lawler	1992	1997
Norma Lynch	1993	1997
Jesse Ortiz	1994	1997
Jean Smyser	1992	1997
Dolores Sutton (C)	1992	1997
Allen Torrey	1989	1997

Town Meeting Study Committee (M)

Dissolved FY 98

Staff Liaison: J. Karpinski

Nonny Burack	1996	1998
Carolyn Holstein (Clerk)	1996	1998
Janice Ratner	1996	1998
Peter Schneider	1996	1998
Otto Stein	1996	1998
Arthur Swift	1996	1998
Zina Tillona (C)	1996	1998

Trustees of Trust Funds (TM)

Dissolved FY 98

Staff Liaison: N. Maglione

Myrna Hewitt	1981	1996
Richard Mathews	1981	1996
Paul Metevia, Jr.	1981	1996

Zoning Board of Appeals (SB)

Staff Liaison: L. Faye

Marc Cohen (ALT)	1998	1998
George Goodwin (C)(TC)	1987	1998
Doris Harris (ALT)	1994	1998
Keri Heitner (ALT)	1994	1999
John Ryan (ALT)	1995	1998
Harriet Shapiro (R)	1995	1999
J. Edward Sunderland	1989	2000
Susan Woglom (ALT)	1996	1998

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Economic Target Area/Economic Opportunity Area

Hill Boss	1994	1998
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Eastern Valley Water Protection Committee

Noel Ryan	1993	1998
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Greater Franklin County Regional Local

Partnership Program

Connie Kruger	1994	1998
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Hampshire Community Action Commission

Florence Frank	1995	1998
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Mount Holyoke Range Advisory Committee

(State Appointment)

Elisa Campbell		
Christopher Ryan		

MRF Management Task Force

Angela Fowler	1996
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Pioneer Valley Joint Transportation Committee

Noel Ryan	1994	1998
James Smith (ALT)	1994	1998

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Robert Mitchell	1992	1998
William O'Neil	1995	1998

Public Shade Tree Committee (CC)

William Hutchinson
Rose Quinton
Karen Searcy

Regional High School Building Committee

Janice Denton	1993
Jack DeNyse	1993
Merle Howes	1993

Animal Control Officer (TM)

Robert Adair	1998
Suzanne Adair	1998

Constables (TM)

William C. Atkins	1997	1998
Clarence Babb	1987	1998
Charles Bray	1991	1998
Herbert Bryan	1991	1998
Mary Commager	1991	1998
Carl Fabian	1992	1998
Richard Fuller	1997	1998
John P. Gedmin	1987	1998
Michael Grala	1995	1998
Franklin Holmes	1992	1998
David Jankowski	1987	1998
James Keedy	1995	1998
Michael Kent	1990	1998
Shirley Lauder	1997	1998
Scott Livingstone	1989	1998
Donald Maia	1987	1996
Llewellyn MacKenzie, Sr.	1992	1998
Jerry Millar	1997	1998
Robert O'Connor	1989	1998
Ernest Paulin	1994	1998
Christopher Pronovost	1994	1998
Jeffrey Roy	1987	1998
Charles Scherpa	1987	1998
Wilbur Shumway	1987	1998
Michael Sullivan	1993	1998
Timothy Sullivan	1991	1998
Donald Thayer	1987	1998
Walter Wysocki	1995	1998
Ronald A. Young	1997	1998

SELECT BOARD

FISCAL YEAR 1998

On October 16, 1997, Town offices were closed as employees moved back into the renovated Town Hall; they reopened for business the following day. On Saturday, November 8, 1997 -- 107 years, to the day, after the original acceptance of the building as the new town hall -- an overflow crowd attended a festive rededication ceremony in the new Town Room. Employees as well as boards and committees were happy to be back in Town Hall after more than five years. Citizens commented on the convenience of the central service desk, where all routine transactions, from dog licenses to the payment of bills, can be processed. Bangs and Munson custodian and flower planter Mary Decker expanded her beautification domain to the north and west side of Town Hall. The League of Women Voters donated furnishings, and is planning to provide art work, for the first-floor meeting room, in memory of Diana Romer, prominent Amherst citizen and former Select Board member, who died in 1992. Roof maintenance, necessitated by the decision not to replace the entire red-slate roof, and minor other adjustments, continue. In June, cameras were installed in the new Town Room that make it possible for Select Board meetings, which had previously been taped by ACTV for later broadcast, to be carried live.

A very different event in the fall of 1997 was what a long-term town meeting member characterized euphemistically as the most "difficult" Town Meeting he could remember.

Occupying eight sessions, from October 28 to December 2, the Meeting grappled, often contentiously, with article after article related to parking issues and the competing designs for a parking garage: the design by Town architects Meyer and Meyer for a three-level garage (one underground, one at ground level and one above ground), as modified over the summer by the Parking Garage Building Committee and named "Boltwood Place"; and the "Pro Bono" design by private architect Peter Kitchell for one underground and one ground level. After the "Boltwood Place" plan failed, a compromise was reached which won Town Meeting approval. It provided for a two-level garage (one underground, one at ground level), with significant pedestrian open space and the structural capability of expansion by one additional level, subject to approval by some future Town Meeting.

A new building committee was appointed. But when a movement immediately formed to attempt to overturn the decision of Town Meeting, the Select Board instructed the Building Committee to remain inactive until the results of the referendum were known. The process leading to the referendum

was fraught with a whole series of difficulties, arising from unclear and controversial wording in the relevant section of the Representative Town Meeting Act. These difficulties were the subject of several petition articles on the warrant of the Annual Town Meeting in April 1998, and, along with a more comprehensive article, led to the formation of a Special Acts Review Committee, appointed by the Moderator, which was charged with reviewing both the Representative Town Meeting Act and the Town Manager Act.

The referendum, meanwhile, failed to overturn Town Meeting's decision. Petition articles on the warrant of Annual Town Meeting that sought to rescind the Fall Town Meeting vote on the garage, or delay its implementation, were defeated. Thereupon, the Building Committee proceeded to select a design team (Wallace, Floyd, Associates), with whom the Town Manager signed a contract; and the state grant of \$3,000,000 was approved. At year's end, the Building Committee was hard at work refining design proposals submitted by the architects, and the Parking Commission was working on other parking issues resulting from Town Meeting action. It could be said that the year was, in some ways, dominated by the parking garage debate and its sequels.

In fact, a number of very different initiatives were underway. Several of them represent promising efforts to engage a broad spectrum of community entities.

Beginning in August 1997, the Problem-Solving Partnership began working in earnest to address alcohol-related problems throughout the Town, in accordance with the one-year Community Policing grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice. The large and diverse group of "stakeholders" included Town officials and staff (including Select Board members and the Town Manager), University administrators from several departments, student leaders, Town and campus (UMass, Amherst and Hampshire Colleges) police, residents, tenants and landlords. After months of searching for the best approach to the large complex of problems, the group agreed to focus on the impending "Hoe-Down" on Hobart Lane, the giant annual out-of-control spring "party" which had assumed dangerous proportions in the previous year. A well-orchestrated cooperative effort involving landlords, student residents, the UMass Dean of Students Office and Town, University and state police was successful in preventing the Hoe-Down this year. The group decided to concentrate next on the downtown and on areas abutting student residences.

Community Policing was structurally formalized within the Police Department, and six community officers, who were assigned to specific areas in Town, began meeting with residents in neighborhoods and could be reached over a new,

special telephone number.

In recognition of the Amherst Fire Department's fifty years of Emergency Medical Service, the Select Board held a well-attended ceremony during which individual Board members and a large number of citizens expressed their appreciation.

The Select Board supported and members participated in the "Visioning" process, a preliminary step toward a Comprehensive Plan for the Town, which was guided by an energetic Comprehensive Plan Committee, whose work continues; in the UMass Chancellor's Task Force on Alcoholism; in the first Citizen Police Academy. They continued to serve as liaison to committees appointed by the Board; as members of the Joint Capital Planning Committee; as partners in ongoing discussions with the University and the colleges about issues of concern.

Members also represented the Town at a variety of official functions. Among these were D.A.R.E. graduations; the graduation ceremony of the second, grant-funded Fire Safety Education program for fourth graders; and the send-off for walkers from the Amherst area who were setting out on the one-year Interfaith Pilgrimage of the Middle Passage to retrace the route of slavery.

In the annual Town election, April 7, 1998, Bryan Harvey was re-elected to a third full term, and Dolly Jolly was elected to fill the vacancy created when Brenna Kucinski decided not to seek a third term. The Board then re-elected Bryan Harvey as chair; Eva Schiffer was elected vice-chair, and Hill Boss was re-elected clerk.

As the year ended, the Board received, and undertook to consider, the recommendations of the ad hoc Arts Fund Balance Committee for the use of a sum of unspent (state) Arts Lottery funds, for arts-related capital items; and received the Town Manager's proposal for a study and consideration of the need, and of available resources, for a Town recreation center, to serve a variety of ages, groups and cultures, and to include arts, sports and health and human services.

In spite of concerns early in the budget process, lottery and Chapter 70 (school aid) payments were again favorable to Amherst this year. However, uncertainties continue about prospects beyond the Education Reform Act and the lottery-cap distribution, which both end in Fiscal Year 2000.

Bryan Harvey, Chair
Eva Schiffer, Vice-Chair
Hill Boss, Clerk
Homer Cowles
Dolly Jolly

Town Manager's Report for FY 98

The summer of 1997 was spent in anticipation of our move back to Town Hall. The renovation was completed in the early fall, and the 107-year-old building was reoccupied in October. On Saturday morning, November 8, 1997, the new Town Room was filled to overflowing for the rededication of the building that had been accepted as the new Town Hall by a Special Town Meeting on Saturday morning, November 8, 1890. Those in attendance were in good spirits, and comments were universally positive. The Town Hall Building Committee, Town staff, the architect and the contractors had done their jobs well: Town Hall had been functionally modernized, yet the historical flavor of the building had actually been enhanced. The controversial mezzanine level revealed a sample of the former vaulted ceiling and all of the grand, old windows.

The Town Hall celebration was a welcome respite from the acrimony surrounding the proposed parking garage in the Boltwood Walk area. A Parking Garage Building Committee worked with a Boston architectural firm throughout the summer on a recommendation for a three-level garage (one below grade, one at grade and one above grade). That recommendation received the support of most Town boards and committees and of the business community, among others, both because of the number of parking spaces it would provide and because it would be surrounded by an attractive, lively place for the community. That recommendation was defeated by Town Meeting, but a few days later an alternative recommendation for a two-level garage was approved by Town Meeting. A February referendum confirmed that approval, a \$3,000,000 state grant was applied for and awarded, and a new Parking Garage Building Committee began a design process for the facility.

While the vision for the parking garage became more clear, the Planning Board's Comprehensive Planning process began with Amherst Vision, three Saturday sessions in which hundreds of citizens expressed opinions about what the town should look like and be like in 2020. As expected, the vision for the future did not become immediately clear, but the process that began this year should be reflected in Annual Reports for the next several years.

The annual budget process was not acrimonious. In fact, it was almost uneventful. The theme was maintenance, rather than new programs, as a vision of possible hard times in 2001 tended to keep the currently favorable situation in perspective. The only substantial increase in funds appropriated for a service or activity was for the joint Town-School Information Systems operation and a major appropriation of funds for computers and a Geographic Information System. The Joint Capital Planning Committee, assisted by Director of Administration and Finance Nancy Maglione (and some excess lottery distributions), devised a five-year capital plan that met needs that had been deferred since the hard times of the early 1990's, especially elementary school renovations.

The Town continued to pursue economic development initiatives in an effort to increase the tax base and, thus, its reliance on state largesse and the residential taxpayer, always mindful not to sacrifice the character of the community.

Community Policing progressed with the assignment of Lt. Jeffrey Roy and Officer Tina Knightly to head the effort, the assignment of officers to geographic areas of the town, the first and second Citizen Police Academy classes, and the Problem-Solving Partnership. The latter concentrated its efforts on preventing the recurrence of what had been an annual and increasingly dangerous "Hobart Hoe-Down" in early May. The Partnership of diverse interests (Town, University and college officials and police, landlords, students, and other citizens), while not without its internal struggles, could serve as a model for other major issues in town.

There were some significant events within the Town administration, including the implementation of a new, internally developed classification and compensation plan and the extension of employee health insurance to domestic partners (when this report is history, its readers will wonder how the latter could be otherwise). Two people left Town service having made many contributions over many years: Assistant Fire Chief George Bowler (retired) and Town Counsel Robert Ritchie (appointed Assistant Attorney General).

It was my privilege to serve as President of the Massachusetts Municipal Association for a year ending in late January, 1998. Without that Association, I am confident that Amherst Town Government would not be prospering in the late 1990's. I was happy to give a little back to the MMA in return for all that it has accomplished over the years (and to look out for Amherst's interests as the MMA looks to the future).

As the year drew to a close, the Civil Rights Review Commission was revitalizing itself for its mission; and I proposed a comprehensive, inclusive assessment and goal-setting process (a new partnership) that may lead to new or renovated facilities for recreation and human services.

While we resisted the fad of labeling every planning process "2000-this" or "20-that," the Town clearly looked to the future in its most important activities of 1997-98. And it felt good to be doing some of it in our new 1890's building.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry L. Del Castilho
Town Manager

Amherst/La Paz Centro, Nicaragua Sister City Committee

Annual Report for FY 98

As in past years, the Committee has devoted most of its efforts to fund raising and solicitation of donations of clothes and equipment to ship to our sister city. Thanks to the success of these efforts (including a tag sale on the Town common in September 1997 and participation in the Cranberry Fair at First Church) we were able to send substantial shipments in September 97, and March 98. These both included large donations of equipment for pre schools and primary schools (a major need) and a quantity of medical supplies, much of it donated by Cooley Dickinson Hospital. We are presently organizing another tag sale for September, 98, and another shipment to Nicaragua later that month.

A new departure in recent years has been the cooperative development of projects proposed by our corresponding committee in La Paz Centro. This started with the establishment of a now self-supporting pharmacy at the Health Clinic, and a rotating fund, established by the local Rotary Club, to provide bicycles for health workers, who pay for them by small regular salary deductions. This has proved very successful, and the number of bicycles has more than doubled. This past year, the Rotary again contributed to a fund to provide meals for needy pediatric patients who must spend more than a day at the clinic (which is now enlarged to a cottage hospital). The Committee also contributed the modest sum of \$150.00 to enable representatives from La Paz Centro to attend a weekend gathering with delegates from sister city committees in other Nicaraguan communities.

The Committee is glad to report that we have been joined by two new members and have received significant help from others in the community. We are especially delighted to have had the valuable assistance of a number of ARHS students who have contributed ideas, time, and enthusiasm. Many of them are leaving for college this fall, but they have recruited others to replace them, and we are confident that the Committee will continue to benefit from the participation of a younger generation of Amherst residents.

Richard Haven
Co-chair

FY 98 REPORT

OF THE

AMHERST ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

FY 98 was a time of change in the Assessor's Office. In October the Assessing Department, along with the other town offices, returned to the renovated Town Hall. The move also brought about a change in customer service. Along with the Town Collector's Office and Town Clerk's Office, the Assessing Office staff now provide assistance at a central counter. Each office provides staffing for the window and many transactions for each office are completed with a "one stop shopping" concept.

The staff remained at three full time employees and one part time employee: April Kupras and Carolyn Georgiadis, Administrative Assistants; Elliott Barker, Staff Appraiser; and David Burgess, Principal Assessor. Changes throughout the year occurred both in staff and Board membership. Elliott Barker retired in April after six years as Appraiser and four years on the Board. Max Stosz stepped down at the end of June after two three-year terms on the Board. Max was a dedicated member of the Board and contributed clear insight, and knowledge. He was replaced by Michael Sullivan who brings many years of municipal service to the Board. Michael previously served on the Finance Committee and as a member of the Select Board.

For FY 98 the Assessor's Office reviewed 2218 permits. These broke down to:

Building permits	- 708
Gas Permits	- 196
Demolition permits	- 8
Electrical permits	- 977
Plumbing permits	- 329

FY 98 TAX RATE RECAPITULATION

(A) Class	(B) Levy Percentage	(C) Levy by Class	(D) Valuation Class	(R) Tax Rate (C)-(D) X1000(A)
Residential	85.7108%	16,743,260.57	872,045,000.	19.20
Open Space	0.0860%	16,799.75	875,000.	19.20
Commercial	10.5602%	2,062,892.66	107,442,400.	19.20
Industrial	0.2918%	57,001.56	2,968,800.	19.20
Personal Prop.	3.3512%	654,643.46	34,095,800.	19.20
TOTAL	100.00%	18,539,253.10	1,017,427,000.	*****

AMHERST BOARD OF ASSESSORS FY 98 ANNUAL REPORT

(7/1/97 - 6/30/98)

The Amherst Board of Assessors held 9 public meetings during FY 98. Board activities associated with these meetings are summarized in the following report. Details on the information in this report can be found in the minutes of the Board of Assessors meetings.

REAL/PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

Commitments/Warrants

The Board signed summary FY 98 property tax commitments and water/sewer warrants for the following:

Real Estate Tax	\$18,879,959.04
Personal Property	\$654,639.36
Water Liens	\$49,712.22
Water Liens Interest	\$2,434.21
Sewer Liens	\$46,700.88
Sewer Liens Interest	\$2,692.34

Appellate Tax Board Cases

Of the FY 98 abatement applications, only one is before the Appellate Tax Board. This case will be decided at a later date. The three FY 97 applications before the Appellate Tax Board were withdrawn.

Abatements

Of 62 applications for abatement of FY 98 real/personal property tax, 54 were approved for some reduction in tax, and 8 were denied any abatement.

Summary Abatements

The following total amounts of real/personal property tax abatements through June 1998 were signed by the Board:

FY 97	\$12,594.72
FY 98	\$20,702.69

Personal Exemptions and Deferrals

The Board signed a form that was submitted to the Department of Revenue for partial reimbursement of FY 98 personal exemptions. For FY 98 there were a total of 175 personal exemptions and deferrals totaling \$121,174.59, as follows :

	#	Value		#	Value
Clause 17D	36	11,917.55	Clause 37A	15	12,172.89
Clause 18	1	1,802.57	Clause 41C	37	32,132.67
Clause 22a-f	65	28,652.88	Clause 41A	15	29,782.22
Clause 22A	1	819.37	Clause 50	2	805.12
Clause 22E	3	3,089.32			

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX

Abatements

The following total amounts of motor vehicle excise tax abatements for July 1997 through June 1998 were signed by the Board:

1989 Bills	\$22,560.88
1991 Bills	\$93.13
1992 Bills	\$123.75
1994 Bills	\$41.25
1995 Bills	\$131.56
1996 Bills	\$2,313.64
1997 Bills	\$35,732.37
1998 Bills	\$84,368.92

Commitments/Warrants

Motor Vehicle excise tax commitments and warrants for the following yearly totals were signed by the Board:

1995	\$94.06
1996	\$7,297.36
1997	\$180,160.29
1998	\$887,835.00

SPECIAL MEETINGS

The Select Board is responsible for allocation of the tax rate (Minimum Residential Factor): whether or not to have a Residential Exemption, and other distributions of the tax burden within classes as allowed by the law, after a public meeting is held to discuss these issues. This meeting was held on November 17, 1997 in the Bangs Center. Board of Assessors recommendations included not to have a split rate and not to exercise the Residential Exemption. The Select Board approved a single tax rate for all classes and no shifts of the tax burden within classes.

TAX RATE/ETC.

Board members signed the Tax Rate Recapitulation form for FY 98 on November 25, 1997, showing a tax rate of \$19.20. The rate was reviewed and approved by the Department of Revenue (DOR).

The Board Chairman signed Hampshire County assessment for \$49,171.14.

Prepared from the Board meeting minutes.

For: Max J. Stosz
Jean Thompson
Judson R. Hastings

Amherst Board of Assessors

FY 98 Buildings and Maintenance Annual Report

Cleaning and maintaining our public facilities continues to be a challenging task. Use of almost all of the buildings is on the increase, not only in the number of users, but also the times when space is in use. This leads to more and more difficulty in scheduling the cleaning and day-to-day "care."

Thanks to the efforts of many citizens and employees, we continue to upgrade the physical condition of the buildings and in some cases have done major repairs or renovations. Following is a brief description of the year's major work:

The major renovation of Town Hall was completed in October of 1997. On November 8, 1997 a ceremony was highlighted by a special exchange of gifts in a surprise visit by officials of our sister city, Kanegasaki, Iwate, Japan. Town Hall once again is a bright star in the northeast corner of our downtown common.

The Bangs Community Center is undergoing a major refurbish. The upper two floors have been nearly completed, and the remainder will hopefully be completed by the fall of 1999. The scope of work has included: new floor coverings, painting of walls and ceilings, some minor alterations, HVAC upgrade, handicap access and in general much TLC.

The Amherst Community Child Care Day Center received new carpeting in most of the classrooms and a new kitchen exhaust fan.

The Police facility saw the training room returned to service for police use with the return of the Town Manager's office to Town Hall. Many of the more heavily used areas are beginning to need paint and sprucing up in the near future.

All of the remaining buildings (Munson Memorial Library, Cushman School, the old North Amherst School and Ruxton Storage) have received less intense care over the last year; however, Munson Memorial Library will soon see major work on the exterior.

Downtown clean-up continues to be done by 3-4 physically challenged people working under contract with the Town. These people (PACE) with their fluorescent vests have become a respected and appreciated part of life in the downtown.

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES
HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING COMMITTEE**

FY 98 TOWN REPORT

The Amherst Children's Services Department provides a variety of services to Amherst families and the Amherst community. In addition to providing information with respect to child care/early education services, the Director of Children's Services is now responsible for administering Town appropriations to human service agencies and the Alfred Field Charitable Trust Fund, a fund which provides emergency cash assistance to low-income individuals and families in Amherst. The Director also provides staff assistance to the Human Services Funding Committee. In addition, the Director is the editor of the Annual Town Report. The Advisory Committee on Children's Services advises the Director of the Amherst Children's Services Department, on issues concerning child care and children's services in the Amherst community. The Human Services Funding Committee reviews proposals for funding from human service agencies and makes funding recommendations to the Select Board, Finance Committee and Town Meeting.

CHILD CARE

Each year, the need for child-care tuition assistance continue to increase. FY 98 was no exception. Families continue to have difficulty paying the high cost of child care services. The Director continues to be a member of the Early Childhood Community Partnership Committee that oversees funding from the Massachusetts Department of Education grant. This grant provides:

1. child care and/or early childhood education tuition assistance for children from low-income families who are in need of social services, family support and/or parent education
2. child care tuition assistance for low- and moderate-income working families with three-and four-year-old children
3. partial funds to operate an integrated pre-school classroom at the University of Massachusetts Human Development Laboratory School
4. partial funding for the local Head Start program to operate one classroom for a full day, giving families who are receiving funds from the state Department of Transitional Assistance an opportunity to attend school or become gainfully employed
5. family support, case management and other services, as funds permit.

The Department of Education requires all child care programs to:

1. receive accreditation from the National Association for Education of Young Children
2. provide parent education
3. provide staff with the opportunity to improve their teaching skills.

Town Meeting allocated \$14,780.00 to provide school-aged child care tuition assistance for low- and moderate-income families with children attending school-based after-school child care programs. During FY 98, fourteen families received support for seventeen children to attend these programs. These funds helped parents pay for child care services while they continued to work or attend educational institutions.

Housing Review Board

The last remaining case of the former Housing Review Board was finally settled during FY 96; the courts supported the decision of the Housing Review Board to reduce the rent of two bedroom units at Brandywine Apartments for the period between December 1, 1987 and November 30, 1988. All tenants living in two-bedroom apartments during that time period are entitled to a return of funds, the amount depending on the number of roommates and the length of time they occupied the apartment. The Director of Children's Services continued, during FY 98, to search for tenants entitled to receive a return of funds.

Human Services

The Human Services Funding Committee continues to face difficult decisions, as human service agencies continue to increase their request for funds. The Committee's priorities for funding continue to follow the guidelines established by the Select Board, namely: 1. emergency services: survival or critical, 2. preventive services and 3. information and referral. Town Meeting approved allocations totaling \$123,357.00 to human service agencies.

The following agencies received Town support for FY 98:

Amherst Survival Center	\$28,000.00
Cambodian American Association	\$ 8,000.00
Helen Mitchell Outreach Program	\$18,000.00
Not Bread Alone	\$ 6,000.00
Children's Aid and Family Services	\$ 7,000.00
Commuter Resources - Homesharing	\$ 1,200.00
Everywoman's Center	\$ 2,500.00
First Call for Help	\$ 6,000.00
Food Bank	\$ 1,080.00
Hampshire County VNA Senior Health	\$ 5,000.00
Men's Resource Center	\$ 5,000.00
Big Brother/Big Sister of Hampshire County	\$19,500.00
Amherst Family Center	\$ 1,000.00
Learning for Life	\$ 5,000.00

Town Meeting, as part of this article, appropriated \$14,780.00 that will provide financial assistance to low-income families whose children are attending school-age child-care programs at Amherst elementary schools.

The Director of Children's Services continued to participate in monthly meetings of the Amherst Human Services Task force, a group of human service personnel concerned with the social service problems facing the Amherst community, as well as the Amherst Youth Services Coordinating Committee, in order to develop a stronger link between human service agencies and the Amherst public schools. This effort will hopefully lead to new collaborative programs that will provide needed services to Amherst youth.

Community Policing

During FY 98, the Department began the implementation of the Amherst Juvenile Diversion Project, providing a range of services for at-risk Amherst juveniles. During this first year, the program served 11 juveniles referred by either the Amherst Police Department for a first offense, or by the Amherst Schools as a Child in Need of Services. Each participant was required to participate in a community service project and was matched with a "big brother or big sister". Parents received support and advocacy as well as parent education.

During this past fiscal year the Director submitted two grant applications addressing the needs of at-risk Amherst youth. The first was in response to a request for proposal from the United States Department of Justice encouraging communities to establish school based problem-solving partnerships to solve long-standing law enforcement problem associated with public schools. The Amherst Police Department and the Amherst School Department agreed to address the continued problem of substance abuse among middle school and high school students.

The second was submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety for funds to continue the Amherst Juvenile Diversion Program. In June the Department was notified that it would receive \$20,000.00 to continue this program.

The Children's Services Department was notified that it will receive a total of \$15,000.00 from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services School-Linked Services Initiative program. This program was developed as part of the Massachusetts Education Reform Law, to provide human service support to families with school-aged children. The program requires a collaboration of committees and groups concerned with increasing services to families with children between 6 and 14 years of age.

During the past fiscal year, the School-Linked Services Initiative Program was responsible for developing a family services support team that provided case management, support and advocacy for low-income Amherst families. School-Linked Services is yet another program being supported by the State Department of Education addressing the needs of children and families throughout the Commonwealth.

The Advisory Committee on Children's Services acted as the coordinating committee for the School-Linked Services Program and therefore made many recommendations with respect to programming and services for Amherst residents.

The Department of Education also provides funding for the Hampshire County Family Network, a program serving families with children between birth and three years of age. The Department of Education intends this initiative to develop innovative programs that will increase the effectiveness of services to these families. The Director of Children's Services is a member of the coalition as well as the executive board in the hope that this effort will benefit Amherst families and children.

CHARITABLE FUNDS

Requests for charitable funds have increased, while the availability of spendable income has decreased due to lower interest rates received on these trust funds.

TOWN REPORT

The FY 98 Town Report was completed and copies distributed to the Select Board, the Finance Committee, the Town Manager, department heads, the School Department and the Jones Library.

Amherst Web-Site

During FY 98, the Director also began the development of the official Town of Amherst Web Site.

Roy Rosenblatt

Associate Director of Community Services

Comprehensive Plan Committee Fiscal Year 1998

History

In early 1996, the Select Board directed the Planning Board to determine if the Town should create a Comprehensive Plan and, if so, what steps would be required. After 9 months, the Planning Board's Long-Range Planning subcommittee recommended that the Town start work on a Comprehensive Plan, beginning with a Community Visioning process.

The Planning Board brought an article to the Fall 1996 Special Town Meeting requesting \$15,000 to support the process. The article fell just short of the required two-thirds. At the Spring 1997 Town Meeting the article passed easily.

FY 1998

In July 1997, the Select Board appointed a new Comprehensive Plan Committee to hire a consultant and guide the process of developing a Vision document and laying the groundwork for a Comprehensive Plan (see member list below).

With technical help from the Planning Department, the Committee drafted an RFP for a consultant that would facilitate the public process, write the Vision document, and estimate the scope and budget of a full Comprehensive Plan. In early November, after interviewing five candidates, the Committee selected the consultant group Community Visioning.

After two months of intensive preparation, the public process formally began on January 10, 1998 with a kick-off event at the Bangs Center. More than 100 people attended. Many showed slides of what they valued about the Town. An open discussion on the purpose and scope of the Visioning project followed, focused on issues affecting the Town's future.

During the next 3 weeks, Committee members conducted a wide-ranging outreach effort to ensure the broadest possible public participation. Crocker Communications donated computing resources and a Committee member designed a Web site to allow electronic participation.

The first Amherst Visions forum was held on January 31 at the High School. The day-long session attracted 160 participants. Large group discussions and small working groups focused on selected dilemmas, future visions in which these dilemmas are resolved, and early actions that can be taken to achieve these visions.

At the end of the day, participants signed up for task groups to continue the work begun at the forum. Eight separate task groups met a minimum of twice each during the next 3 weeks to further develop each topic, refine a vision statement, and clarify action steps. The task groups were: Growth, Town Character, and Housing; Conservation, Open Space, Farming, and Natural Systems; Economic Vitality; Youth and Schools; Town/Gown; Arts in Amherst; Transportation; and Diversity and Human Services.

Outreach efforts were increased during the three weeks leading to the second Amherst Visions forum. Committee members met with students at the High School, with senior citizen groups, and with several other constituencies.

Questionnaires were distributed in town and mailed to approximately 3,500 people.

A second public forum, held on March 7 at the High School, drew 120 people for a half-day session, again using the large and small group discussion format. The eight task groups presented their findings. High school students presented their visions for the Town. The task groups reconvened in the ensuing weeks to further refine issues, visions, and early actions.

Amherst Visions: The Report

The information generated through the public forums, outreach meetings, task groups, questionnaires, Web site, and informal discussions was sorted and analyzed by the consultant and the Committee and used to prepare a report a) documenting the findings, and b) outlining the next steps required to proceed to a Comprehensive Plan.

In late May/early June, Committee members reviewed the first draft of the consultant's report, "Amherst Visions," and recommended substantial revisions by the consultant. Working with Committee members and the Planning Department, the consultant submitted an Interim Report that was accepted by the Committee in June 1998.

The Committee had planned to submit a Final Report to Fall Town Meeting. However, it became clear that further work was required to produce a document that accurately reflects the broadest, most complete vision of Town residents. Committee members believed this work important enough to augment the process during the summer months in the following ways:

- 1) Expand outreach efforts to include input from those who had not yet participated.
- 2) Conduct educational roundtable discussions on Amherst Cable TV on specific aspects of the Comprehensive Plan.
- 3) Hold a third public forum in September-October, inviting Town Meeting members, to allow an opportunity for comments on the Interim Report, with the goal of defining priorities, determining the scope, and computing the cost of a full Comprehensive Plan. (Note: That forum has been rescheduled for February 25, 1999.)

What's Ahead

An important component of the contract with the consultant calls for a Final Report that can stand on its own and serve as a useful, practical planning document. If Town Meeting chooses not to fund a full Comprehensive Plan, the work of the Visioning Process, as embodied in the report, will serve as a guide for planning the Town's future without a Comprehensive Plan. If Town Meeting does vote to fund a Comprehensive Plan next spring, the report will serve as a foundation for that.

Convinced of the long-term value of this broad-based process to the future well-being of the Town, Committee members are now working to deliver a report that is useful, one that accurately reflects the vision of as many residents as possible for the future -- and that provides some direction for the next generation to get there.

Comprehensive Plan Committee

* Ann Benson
School Committee

* Barbara Bilz
LSSE

* Steve Calcagnino
Chamber of Commerce

Elisa Campbell
At-large

Bruce Coldham (co-chair)
Planning Board

‡ John Coull
Chamber of Commerce

Peter Correa
Hampshire College (liaison)

Janice Denton
At-large

Eddy Goldberg
Planning Board

Robert Grose
Planning Board

Peter Jessop
At-large

Planning Department Staff

Niels La Cour
Associate Planner

Community Visioning Consultants

Mollie Babize
Administrative Director
Conway School of Landscape Design
Conway, MA

Elizabeth Vizza
Associate, The Halvorsen Company
Boston, MA

* Ray Kinoshita
Planning Board

Ellen Knox
Conservation Commission

‡ Byron Koh
LSSE

John Kuhn (co-chair)
At-large

Adrian McGrath
EDIC

Shirley Packard
Council on Aging

Eva Schiffer
Select Board (liaison)

Peter Shea
Amherst College (liaison)

Judith Steinkamp
University of Mass. (liaison)

Elizabeth Trahan
Public Transportation Committee

Beverly Wood
University of Mass. (liaison)

Robert Mitchell
Planning Director

Walter Cudnohufsky
Principal, Walter Cudnohufsky
Associates
Ashfield, MA

* FY 1998 only

‡ New member FY 1999

Note: Liaisons are non-voting

Conservation Commission and Conservation Department Annual Report FY 98

The Conservation Commission and Conservation Department combine to provide wetlands regulatory protection, open space planning, farmland protection, watershed forestry, trails construction and maintenance, golf course oversight, conservation land management and habitat protection, and acquisition and protection of additional land in cooperation with the Kestrel Trust, Valley Land Fund, and adjacent towns.

Commission members this year were Chair Jim Scott, Kenneth Bergstrom, Richard Brown, Bob Comings, Jim Ellis, Elizabeth French, and Karen Searcy. Active associate members were Ellen Knox, Sonya Sofield, and Tom Zajicek.

Many volunteers assisted the Commission throughout the year. Karen Werner, Ellen Knox, Betsey Johnson, and others organized the spring trails fundraising day. Alison Leschen and Sylvia Kriebel headed the Puffer's Pond community breakfast and fund appeal. Ronnie Booxbaum, with staff Bridget Davis and 4-H leader Pat Wagner, directed the 6th Amherst Farm Festival with assistance from many Town farmers and elementary school students; and some 30 trail "Ridgewalker" volunteers continued surveillance and light maintenance work on adopted trails in the Town's 65-mile system.

Barbara Mitchell chaired the Town Farm Committee, whose members were Joe Waskiewicz, Gordon Fletcher-Howell, Sonya Sofield, Art Dahowski, Barbara Marx, Bruce Coldham, and Bob Comings. Bill Hutchinson again chaired the Public Shade Tree Advisory Committee, with members Rose Quinton, Karen Searcy, and Herb Bryan. Caroline Arnold continued supervising botanical inventory work on the Ruxton property at Pulpit Hill Road and in the Lawrence Swamp area.

The Commission this year received a \$36,750 state "Self-Help" grant to offset the purchase price of the 66-acre Houston parcel on Dean Brook in Shutesbury as Amherst conservation and watershed land. Additional help came from the Kestrel Trust. The tax title taking of the 7.5-acre Asahel Gage property on Bare Mountain brought the Town's total conservation land acreage to 1,806. The Department also continued negotiations with two Amherst farm families toward the joint Town/state purchase of two Agricultural Preservation Restrictions at North East Street and Belchertown Road.

Through a \$150,000 grant to the Town, consulting engineers VHB, Inc., and lead designer Ruth Bonsignore completed preliminary plans for the proposed two-mile Amherst-UMass Bikeway Connector; the project was ranked #1 in the region for federal construction grant funds expected in FY 99.

The Kestrel Trust received some \$2,000 in gifts for the current phase of plantings of ornamental trees and shrubs at the Applewood Arboretum on Town land off Bay Road; and nearly \$5,000, including a significant anonymous gift, for the nine-town trail crew,

supervised by Nick Anzuoni. The trail crew, together with an additional short-term AmeriCorps federal trail crew and volunteers through an Eastern Mountain Sports trails grant, worked on several new additions to the regional trail system. Among them were extensions to the 42-mile Robert Frost Trail and completion of the Potwine-to-Pomeroy Lane missing link in the 6-mile KC Trail.

Grant funds from the Silvio Conte National Wildlife Refuge allowed the continuation of partnership programs in grassland management and invasive plant control on various Town, college, and private fields. Volunteers from the Hampshire Bird Club completed Year 9 of the Town's Breeding Bird Survey, coordinated by the Conservation Department. A team from the Conway School of Landscape Design carried out a land use study of the new Ruxton property on Pulpit Hill Road with recommendations for future Town uses. The Department also continued its monthly "Conservation Breakfast" series at the Hitchcock Center.

Farm-related activities included administration of the community garden program, directed by Bridget Davis; continuing farm rentals of some ten sites on conservation land; and a new rental agreement with the Japanese "Sunbow 5" growers at Haskins Meadow. Staff also produced a 60-minute ACTV/Farm Committee video on Amherst farmers entitled "Voices from the Farm."

In wetlands enforcement, the Commission and staff Wetlands Administrator Stephanie Ciccarello oversaw significant commercial and residential development projects at the Arbors (University Drive), Greenleaves (Route 9), Big Y, Slobody Office Park site (University Drive), Hampshire College, and at many other locations.

- Pete Westover, Conservation Director

Cherry Hill Golf Course Annual Report FY 98

Fiscal Year 1998 was another good year for Cherry Hill. Total revenues were \$223,264 and actual expenditures were \$192,731, producing a \$30,533 surplus. A great deal of credit for Cherry Hill's success goes to a hard-working staff led by Course Manager Dan Engstrom.

Once again, more than 20,000 rounds of golf were played at Cherry Hill, and Amherst resident season passes increased to over 240. For the fifth consecutive year, Cherry Hill also hosted the Massachusetts Special Olympics golf event. Course maintenance this year featured the rebuilding of three tees and various traps and bunkers. Planning for the rebuilding or replacing of the clubhouse/barn headquarters building also moved forward.

The Advisory Committee gratefully acknowledges the cooperation and support of neighbors and townspeople, and looks forward to the continued success of the Cherry Hill golf operation.

- Bernard F. Wilkes, Jr., Chair

FY 1998 ANNUAL REPORT Council on Aging for all of Amherst's Seniors

The FY 1998 goal of the Council on Aging has been to enable Amherst Seniors to participate in services and programs that promote their "Wellness, Independence, Fitness, Safe and Soundness and Enrichment."

Activities at the Center during FY 98 have included:

Gentle Exercise - Diane Murch
Vigorous Exercise - Marcia Feinstein
Senior Health Services, Flu Clinic, Health Fair and Education Programs - Sally Tripp, R.N., M.S. - VNA/
Hospice Alliance
Tai Chi - Baiquing Li
Gentle Yoga - Linda Smith
Feel for Food - Esther Almeida
Vital Aging, Growing Wiser - Sara Wolff
New Options Group - Robert Johnston
Visually Impaired Persons - elected President, Lorraine Thurston, and Nancy Pagano
Mercy Hospital Weldon Hearing Van - Hearing Test - No fee.
For some of these services and programs a fee is required: others are free of charge.

Other Offerings

Literature Courses - One in the fall of 1997 and two in the spring of 1998. Ellsworth Barnard, a UMASS Professor Emeritus, has been active in organizing these courses for the past 20 years, either teaching or finding other UMASS retirees to teach them. At age 91, he plans to retire in September 1998. Hundreds of Seniors have enjoyed these courses, and Professor Barnard will be sorely missed.

Cable TV's "Age is the Rage," a conversation show with Town Seniors, produced by John Clobridge, Director of the Senior Center, assisted by Doris Holden and Estelle Rule. Clobridge also sponsors "Patio Talks," open to all Seniors during the summer.

Senior Events

Investment Help and Caring for your Money
Tax Aid
Trips - One of the Center's most popular programs, planned by Pagano and the Travel Club. Bus trips to a wide variety of interesting places and to shows, museums, shopping, etc. These excursions are planned to be of varying lengths to make sure that some trips are affordable to all Seniors.

Conversations, discussions and forums on such topics as "Housing Options for Seniors," "Health Care Concerns," was coordinated by Isaac Ben Ezra, a COA member. Also planned with AARP was a session on "Social Security and Medicare."

Other activities taking place on a regular basis included: Painting lessons, Senior Craft Center, Square Dancing, Scrabble, Chess and Bridge. Local artists have shown their paintings in the Ethel Moore Gallery, and parties, luncheons and picnics have marked special occasions.

Highland Valley Elder Services served lunch five days a week. These luncheons are planned with the nutritional needs of Seniors in mind. Reservations one day before attending are necessary and there is a minimum fee. Meals on Wheels is also operated out of the Senior Center, with many volunteers delivering many meals.

Social Services

Barbara Slovin, Assistant Director and Social Services Director assists individuals or couples who need help with housing, insurance, health needs, transportation, Meals on Wheels, Brown Bag program, or anything else on a private and confidential basis. She has started a Caregivers group for those caring for an ill family member or friend.

Senior Spirit

Every two months, all Amherst Seniors continue to receive copies of the "Senior Spirit," a newsletter letting everyone know what is going on at the Center. It includes a calendar for each month's listing of events. Nancy Pagano and Barbara Taylor, editors of the newsletter, have reported that Tom Gralinski, Head of the Graphic Arts and Printing Dept. at ARHS, and his students began printing the "Senior Spirit" in April. According to Pagano, this is cutting the cost of the newsletter in half.

Are you O.K.?

S.A.L.T., Seniors and Law Enforcement Together, is a free computerized reassurance program for Seniors who would like someone to check on them daily because of their physical condition, through a special computer software program at the Senior Center. Seniors needing this service are telephoned at their homes each morning, five days a week, to see if they are O.K. Henry Peirce takes care of the details.

Renovations

After several years at the Bangs Center, many Town employees have returned to the newly renovated Town Hall. Now, renovations are taking place at the Bangs Center. Of special interest to Seniors will be the redecoration of the Senior Lounge. New carpeting and new furniture will hopefully make the lounge more welcoming to all who come in. It was last refurbished in the early '70's.

New Programs

For the Council on Aging and Director, John Clobridge, the spring of FY 98 has been primarily a planning period: looking at overall programs and services, interviewing Seniors and watching the trend of other Councils around the country. John and the Council believe that in program development for future seniors, wellness and fitness are their highest priority. To enable them to enjoy their independence and maintain a quality of life, two new programs are planned.

1. The Nursing Center

The purpose of this program is to establish a no-fee, nurse-managed, community-based Senior Health Program at the Bangs Center, starting with one day a week. It will provide comprehensive primary preventive nursing care by monitoring ongoing health problems; assessing the effects of medication treatment, triaging "new" health complaints; treating minor health problems and making appropriate referrals for further health care as needed. This program will offer all Amherst Seniors the opportunity to have their very own nurse. The Nursing Department at UMASS has been working closely with the Council on this project.

2. The Fitness/Exercise Room

Nancy Pagano has conferred with Frank Rife of the UMASS Exercise Science Department on plans to open a fitness/exercise room at the Bangs center. The room will have a number of different pieces of equipment suitable for seniors. An exercise science technician will be in charge and seniors will be instructed on an individual basis after receiving clearance from their physician.

John P. Chaboy
12/18/98

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD FY 98 ANNUAL REPORT

Big Changes in Downtown

For the Design Review Board, FY 98 may in the future be known as the "Year of the Parking Garage." But the Boltwood Walk parking garage was only one of several large projects that foretold significant future changes for downtown Amherst.

Renovations to the historic Town Hall were finished during the year, and the restored building was re-opened in October 1997. Expanded and improved public meeting space and the inclusion of a new interior mezzanine level will ensure that this historic downtown structure and critically important center for community governance continues to meet Amherst's needs for many years to come.

Design work on the central downtown intersection of Main, Amity and North & South Pleasant Streets reached the "25% design" stage, with improved traffic flow and handicapped accessibility included. The Design Review Board continued to push for the inclusion of well-designed 'period' features in streetlight poles and pedestrian furniture compatible with the character of this historic downtown crossroads. Initial schematic designs were begun for improvements to the Route 9/South Pleasant Street intersection, including bicycle lanes to help connect the Norwottuck Rail Trail and the downtown.

The major pedestrian and vehicle connection between the Town parking lot behind CVS and North Pleasant Street was improved with the addition of railings and an overhead roof for the raised walkway along its northern edge.

The Design Review Board worked with the Town/Commercial Relations Committee and Planning Department staff to develop a series of capital budget proposals for FY 99. Most were funded by the 1998 Annual Town Meeting. Consideration of one important project, a comprehensive downtown traffic study and pedestrianization design plan, was postponed until the 1998 Special Fall Town Meeting or later. This project could help determine transportation access and the quality of the downtown pedestrian environment for years in the future. It is a response to recommendations from many community planning efforts over the years, most recently the Amherst Visions process that occurred in the winter and spring of 1998.

Commercial Projects

Commercial renovation activity during FY 98 was modest, but important. The Knights of Columbus re clad their building on North Pleasant Street with vinyl siding and brickface, and replaced most of its windows and doors. Cheryl-Nina Hair Salon & Day Spa on Main Street removed inappropriate 'barnboard' sheathing on the face of their storefront, and uncovered and restored the original brick and masonry of their portion

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD FY 98 ANNUAL REPORT

Commercial Projects (cont.)

of the Amherst Building. The Synthesis Center relocated to 274 North Pleasant Street and installed a new handicapped access ramp for clients and employees.

William Gillen replaced a deteriorating fire escape on the east side of the office/apartment building at 24 South Prospect Street--a building made famous as the "House on the Hill" by local children's author Christine Couture. Downtown restaurateur Mauro Aniello began the design process to extensively renovate the small brick commercial building at 69 North Pleasant Street. The Men's Resource Center purchased the former River Valley Crafts building at 274 North Pleasant Street and added a handicapped access ramp to the streetfront entrance.

One major commercial renovation that went almost unnoticed (by design) was the installation of downtown Amherst's first wireless communication facility. The small, unobtrusive antennas for the facility were installed in the belfry of the St. Brigid's Catholic Church bell tower by Omnipoint, Inc., along with a ground-mounted support structure behind the church. This is also the first commercial wireless facility installed in Amherst on private (non-college) property. Its success is an indication that the design regulations in Amherst's wireless communication zoning bylaw (which the Design Review Board helped to shape) are working.

The DRB received two requests for design review advice on commercial development projects from the Planning Board, both on University Drive. One involved the design of an ATM kiosk for BankBoston in the rebuilt Amherst Shopping Center. The other was a proposal for a new main sign for the Newmarket Center shopping complex.

Signs

As usual, the bulk of the Design Review Board's applications during FY 98 were for new downtown signs. The Board was encouraged to see that many of these applications were for new start-up businesses, relocations or expansions.

Sign design reviews during FY 98 included: Edward Jones (replacement sign), Oxford Bleu (new clothing store), Northampton Cooperative Bank (part of a previous renovation project), Growroom (new retail store), Amherst Family Chiropractic (new medical office), Papa Gino's (new 'companion' food shop with D'Angelo's), Jeffery Amherst Bookshop (new awning sign), Wireless Communication (new communication technology shop), Amherst Computer (new signs), Au Lys Bleu (new French bistro), Synthesis Center (new sign for new location), Sun Hemp (new hemp products store), Hair by Harlow (new sign for new location), China Inn (awning sign for new restaurant), Main Street Jewelry (new jewelry store), The Fridge (new art gallery), La Veracruzana (new sign and awning for new restaurant), Body Art (signs for piercing and body art

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD FY 98 ANNUAL REPORT

Signs (cont.)

establishment), Modo (sign for new specialty furniture store), Details (new women's accessories store), Cooley Dickinson/Hampshire Orthopedics & Sports Medicine (new signs for expanded medical offices), Jones Town & Country (replacement signs for merged real estate firm), Wormtown Trading Company (new sign for variety store--replacing Sun Hemp), Clegg Financial Services (sign for new location) and the Men's Resource Center (sign for new location).

Town Projects

The DRB reviewed several Town projects during FY 98. These included: new awnings for the west windows of the historic North Amherst Library, new playground design for Groff Park, a new playground enclosure for the Cushman School, a major new soccer field plan for the former Wentworth Farm property off Old Farms Road in East Amherst, and modular classrooms for Crocker Farm Elementary School.

Design Issues

In response to requests by the Select Board and Town Manager, the Design Review Board examined and issued recommendations on two design issues--sandwichboard signs and a town-wide banner proposal by a private promoter.

Outreach

The Design Review Board developed a draft flyer to assist those submitting applications for signs--the most common DRB application. The DRB intends to complete and distribute this flyer in FY 99. The DRB also reprinted and began wide distribution of "Good Design is Good Business for Amherst!," a flyer it had developed to explain simple, inexpensive ways to improve the appearance and effectiveness of storefronts and business facades.

Christine Brestrup, Acting Chair
Design Review Board

FY 98 Annual Report
Disability Access Advisory Committee

The Disability Access Advisory Committee (DAAC) meets once a month and continues to advocate for residents with disabilities. Shen Titus, Human Rights Director, who is the Town liaison, is present at the monthly DAAC meetings. DAAC also works with Town officials to facilitate the Town's compliance with state and federal regulations governing access to people with disabilities. It continues to have one of its members serve on the Parking Commission.

Activities of the DAAC during the past year include the following:

1. The Committee met with Town officials on the plans under consideration for the parking garage (Kitchell and M&M plans) and made recommendations on several access issues;
2. the Committee worked with the Public Works Department on different Town parking areas that needed handicapped parking spaces and reviewed the designs under consideration;
3. the Committee, working with the Planning Department, requested \$15,000 for access projects from the Joint Capital Planning Committee for FY 99 and was granted the requested amount;
4. several contacts were made with the Postmaster to replace the mailbox that was removed from the Bangs Community Center;
5. advocacy work was done on behalf of a disabled resident living in Mill Valley Apartments.

The DAAC will continue working on issues from prior years as well as new issues as they arise.

Seren Derin, Chair

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION (EDIC)
ANNUAL REPORT
FY 98

The EDIC was active this year promoting the future development of the North Amherst Professional Research Park (PRP) site for commercial development. The EDIC has further defined its role as a facilitator of local economic development projects that will benefit Amherst.

In the introduction to its Mission Statement, adopted in May 1997, the EDIC describes its role:

A valuable resource to the Town of Amherst, the Economic Development and Industrial Corporation is dedicated to establishing an environment that will enable Amherst to attract new industry and retain existing businesses and thus diversify the Town's tax base and create new jobs while retaining Amherst's unique quality of life.

The EDIC worked with the Board of Health to adopt an updated Biotechnology Regulation. This Regulation conforms with regulations recently adopted in other Massachusetts communities, better protecting the Town while creating a clear and concise set of requirements for researchers and businesses to follow.

Members:

Jane Weisner, Chair
Paul Rothery, Vice-Chair
Richard Mudgett
Sandy Sacco
Frank Cannon
Adrian Magrath
Les Whitney

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1998

The Finance Committee is charged with investigating all proposals in articles of the warrant for any town meeting that would affect the finances of the Town, recommending action to be taken on such proposals, making recommendations to the Town generally in regard to its financial business, and making transfers from the Town's Reserve Fund.

The largest part of our work consists of studying budget proposals and preparing recommendations for Annual Town Meeting action on the Town's operating budget and capital expenditures. During weekly meetings from mid-January until Town Meeting begins in late April, we meet with elected committee and board members, administrators and staff to gather information on programs, services and priorities of all parts of Town government. The Committee has two representatives on the Joint Capital Planning Committee. Individual Finance Committee members attend budget-related meetings of the Select Board, the Amherst and Regional School Committees, and the Jones Library Trustees. Other Town committees are visited when it seems advisable and as time permits. Comments of the citizenry are useful to us; this is a major reason why we encourage people to attend our meetings.

Many other warrant articles at Annual or Special Town Meetings have significant financial implications which we investigate by consulting with Town committee members and staff, interested citizens and, in the case of petition articles, the petitioners.

We view large capital purchases and/or construction projects as important financially not only because of their cost, but also because of their effects on future operating budgets. The proposed parking garage and the beginning of a program of major renovations to elementary schools were of special interest to us during fiscal year 1998. Close attention needs to be paid to these projects in the coming year.

The Reserve Fund for Fiscal Year 1998 consisted of \$85,000 appropriated at the 1997 Annual Town Meeting. The Finance Committee authorized the following expenditures from it:

\$ 5,000.00 Historical Commission - for a matching grant application directed toward establishing a Westside Historic District;

475.00	ACTV - for repairs to the Middle School auditorium's sound system in advance of Fall Town Meeting;
6,936.60	Town Clerk - for replacement of the Middle School sound system in advance of Annual Town Meeting;
5,727.27	Snow and Ice - for stockpiling salt and sand;
450.77	Planning Department - for staff cost-of-living increases above the estimated amount;
48.71	Historical Commission - for expenses related to establishing a Westside Historic District;
10,671.23	LSSE - for a staff change not anticipated in the department's original budget.

The total of these transfers is \$29,309.58. The balance of the year's Reserve Fund, \$55,690.42, becomes Free Cash.

The Finance Committee held 30 meetings during the year, with 7 of them occurring in conjunction with town meeting sessions.

We were pleased to have Charles Turcotte as a member for part of this year. Ed Bisson left the Committee early in the year after six years of valued service. Two new members joined the Committee--Arthur Swift in January and Carlton Brose in April. The other members are Alice Carlozzi (Chair), Katherine Vorwerk Feldman, Marilyn Gonter, Brian Morton (Vice-Chair) and Margot Parrot (Clerk).

We are grateful to our staff liaison, Nancy Maglione, the Town's Director of Administration and Finance. We also appreciate the cooperation of many Town officials which is essential to our work, and the assistance of staff of the Town Manager's office and the Finance Department.

Alice Carlozzi, Chair

FIRE DEPARTMENT

A Message from the Fire Chief

FY 98 continued the upward trend of emergency responses, with 984 fire and 2,627 emergency medical calls. We have now reached the level of an average of 10 emergency responses per day. The frequency of multiple activity stresses staffing levels and this remains a concern for the Department.

Emergency medical responses continue to increase each year, and with the anticipated Coolidge Bridge construction to begin in FY 00, the Department is concerned with additional increases in multiple simultaneous calls that will further stretch our resources.

Again, I would like to comment on the SAFE (Student Awareness of Firesafety Education) program and the great cooperation of the students, parents, schools and fire personnel bringing fire safety messages to all 4th grade classes in the school system. The addition of a Fire Safety House in Hampshire County will enhance the program in future years. A special thanks goes to our state legislature for supporting the SAFE program with grant money.

Personnel

Assistant Chief George M. Bowler retired after 30 years of service with the last 24 years as a fire officer. The Department will miss George and we wish him a long and healthy retirement.

Michael Zlogar and Patrick Brock were promoted to Assistant Fire Chief.

Gary Childs, Lindsay Stromgren, and Timothy Masloski were promoted to Fire Captain.

Fire Statistics

A new format for the reporting of fire responses is presented this year after more than twenty years in the old format. The new format is due to many reasons. The first is the advent of computerization in the Fire Department. Our first project for Department-wide computerization is to have fire reports done by the company officers on a PC-based network, then reviewed by the Chief's office. The collection of this data will allow us to more quickly identify problem areas which can be addressed by fire prevention education or enforcement of present fire prevention regulations. The second reason is a change of perspective in the fire service towards automatic fire alarm systems. In previous years we had a classification for nuisance alarms. Since the collection of data was done manually, the determination (or definition) of what a nuisance alarm is has changed considerably. The fire service now looks at false fire alarms in three categories: malicious false alarms, system malfunctions, and unintentional alarms. From this we are better able to determine a problem and a course of action in order to reduce these false alarms. As the Fire Department's activities continue to increase, the reduction of false fire alarms has become a major goal of the Department.

Fire Prevention Activity Record: FY 98

Compliance Inspections:

Dwellings - M.G.L. Chapter 148, Section 26-E	34
Apartments - M.G.L. Chapter 148, Section 26-C	16
Sale of Dwellings - M.G.L. Chapter 148, Section 26-F	237
New Construction - Dwellings	71
Smoke detector site locations	21
Building plans reviews	87
Fire alarm systems	17
Sprinklers/suppression systems	16

Miscellaneous Inspections:

Oil burner installations, permits	150
Underground tanks, on-site inspections	41
Retail gasoline facilities	2
Tank vehicle inspections	9
Licensed establishments	32
LPG inspections, permits	26
Commercial buildings	11
Open burning permits	968
Agricultural open burning permits	17
Fireworks permit site inspections	5
Investigation of citizen complaints	7
Nursing and rest home inspections	8
Clinics and infirmaries inspections	18
Inns and theaters inspections	8
Fraternity/sorority inspections	61
Amherst College inspections	8
Hampshire College inspections	4

Fire Prevention Programs:

Public school exit drills/inspections	26
Public school fire safety programs	22
Private school exit drills	8
Private school fire safety programs	4
Community fire safety programs	9

TOTAL FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITY FOR FY 98	1,942
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**Fire Department Responses
July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998**

	Town of Amherst	University of Mass.	Amherst College	Hampshire College
Fires:				
Structure	37	18	5	6
Outside	44	10	0	0
Vehicle	17	3	0	0
Brush	17	3	0	0
Rescue Calls	45	3	1	0
Hazardous Conditions	59	6	1	0
Service Calls	42	6	4	0
Good Intention Calls	93	22	41	35
False Calls				
Malicious	21	65	33	13
System Malfunction	64	11	37	11
Unintentional	32	17	45	41
Other	53	9	10	5
TOTAL:	524	171	177	112
In-Service responses		82		
Still alarms		845		
Box alarms		55		
Recall alarm		1		
Mutual aid responses:		1		
TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES		984		

Fire Loss by Occupancy Type - FY 98

Occupancy	Number of Incidents	Dollar Loss	Civilian Injuries	Firefighter Injuries
Residential	23	\$342,623	6	3
Academic/Schools	9	\$3,050	0	0
Commercial	3	\$1,100	0	0
Health Care	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	13	\$25,800	1	0
Other	5	\$6,150	0	0
TOTAL	53	\$378,723	7	3

Emergency Medical Services

Requests for emergency medical assistance increased by 7.8% in fiscal year 98. The Department responded to a total of 2,627 incidents. Emergency medical service was provided to the Town of Amherst, University of Massachusetts, Amherst College, Hampshire College and the Towns of Hadley, Pelham, Leverett and Shutesbury. Emergency medical technicians evaluated and treated a total of 2,769 patients. Thirty-three responses were made to incidents outside our normal response area. These requests were usually for paramedic level care for a patient being transported in an ambulance not staffed to this level.

The delivery of advanced care is an important element of our service. Patients suffering cardiac emergencies, severe injuries and certain medical emergencies are able to receive care at least twenty minutes sooner than when waiting to be admitted to the hospital. Thirty-four percent of patients (942) examined and treated received advanced care. A third cardiac monitor was purchased this year, enabling us to staff three paramedic ambulances. Thirty-six percent of the shifts had three paramedics on duty.

Non-emergency transportation, usually between medical facilities or to a patient's home, is a small part of our service. Staffing for the non-emergency transports is provided by hiring members not scheduled for duty. The Department made 17 non-emergency trips.

The Department provides standby ambulance service at events with large crowds. Service was provided at the University Commencement, University football games, concerts at the Mullins Center and several sporting events. Emergency medical technicians at the events provide initial evaluation and treatment and are able to request additional resources as necessary. This system has enabled us to provide better care to those attending large events and to manage the impact of these large events on our ability to respond to other emergencies.

STAFFING: The firefighters on duty staff the two primary ambulances at the paramedic level. A third ambulance can be placed in service at the paramedic or intermediate level without calling in additional personnel. All members of the permanent force are certified Emergency Medical Technicians: eleven at the Paramedic level, sixteen at the Intermediate level and one at the Basic level. Firefighter Derrick Donahue completed paramedic training and achieved state certification. Two members are enrolled in the Springfield College program and expect to complete the program in the near future.

Thirteen call firefighters and six student firefighters are certified Emergency Medical Technicians. All call and student firefighters who are not certified EMTs complete First Responder and CPR training. The call and student firefighters are called upon to staff ambulances during busy periods and to staff non-emergency transfers.

TRAINING: The Department provides support to members pursuing certification at the basic, intermediate and paramedic level. The Department offers continuing education programs to meet specific training needs for our service and supports members attending programs with other services.

The Department has been involved with the training programs of other agencies in our area. Fire Departments, Police Departments and First Responders on the college campuses arriving before the ambulance begin care to stabilize the patient. We have worked with First Responders and EMTs in neighboring communities to develop working relationships that bring to the patient quality care from time of first contact to arrival at the hospital.

Ambulance Responses - FY 98

By Month	Number	Percentage
July	193	7.3%
August	181	6.9%
September	284	10.8%
October	227	8.6%
November	252	9.6%
December	211	8.0%
January	203	7.7%
February	204	7.8%
March	201	7.7%
April	217	8.3%
May	255	9.7%
June	199	7.6%
TOTAL	2,627	

Monthly Average 219

Patient Destinations

Cooley Dickinson Hospital	1,920
Bay State Medical Center	59
Franklin Medical Center	23
Holyoke Hospital	15
Athol Memorial Hospital	1
Berkshire Medical Center	1
Transport by Life Flight Helicopter	4
Wing Memorial Hospital	6
Mercy Hospital	4
Mary Lane Hospital	15
Non-emergency transport	17
Evaluated, not transported	704
Total Number of Patients	2769

Number of EMS Incidents and Patient Contacts

Location	FY 96		FY 97		FY 98		
	Incidents	Percent	Incidents	Percent	Patients	Incidents	Percent
Amherst*	1873	79.5%	1893	77.7%	1976	1940	73.8%
Hadley	337	14.3%	368	15.1%	404	528	20.1%
Pelham	47	2.0%	39	1.6%	44	44	1.7%
Shutesbury	35	1.5%	49	2.0%	46	40	1.5%
Leverett	54	2.3%	57	2.3%	59	42	1.6%
Out of District	11	0.5%	30	1.2%	31	33	1.3%
Total	2357		2436		2560	2627	
Percent Increase from Previous Yr	1.0%		3.4%			7.8%	8.2%

*includes all campuses

Emergency Care Provided

Level of Care	Number of Patients	Percent
Basic Care	1,827	66.0%
Advanced Life Support, Intermediate	373	13.5%
Advanced Life Support, Paramedic	569	20.5%
TOTAL	2564	

Permanent Force Training

Upon their promotion, Assistant Chiefs Michael Zlogar and Patrick Brock attended the 10-day Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program conducted jointly by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute. Upon their promotion, Captains Gary Childs and Lindsay Stromgren completed the 15-day Fire Officer I Skills Development program given by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

F/F Veronica Mard was selected to become a Hazardous Materials Technician. She completed a 160-hour training program given by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and has become one of Amherst Fire Department's members of the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team, District #4.

The Department sent Firefighters Michael Roy, Jeffery Olmstead, Patrick Schmohl and Veronica Mard to the New England Fire Service Training Weekend sponsored by the National Fire Academy and given at the University of Massachusetts Campus Center. Also, Firefighters John Ingram and James Snowden attended the Massachusetts Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Many other firefighters took Massachusetts Firefighting Academy courses on their own time to further their training and career. This outside training continues to help our in-service training done on duty by the firefighters in both stations. Officers and firefighters conduct training exercises in the stations and at locations throughout the Town. Training exercises include: street and building familiarization, response routes, pump operation, hazardous materials training, equipment operation, tactics and strategy, and firefighter skills development.

Call Force

The Amherst Fire Department Call Force serves the Town of Amherst by augmenting the Department's full-time force. The Call Force is available to provide fire suppression and emergency medical services around the clock. During FY 98, the Call Force was called into Central Station a total of 143 times. This included 86 special calls and 57 box alarms. Additionally, while in service by special call, drill, or previous call, Call Force personnel were dispatched to 1 box alarm, 10 still alarms and 11 ambulance calls for a total of 165 dispatched responses.

Although authorized for 22 members, personnel changes resulted in lowering the membership to 15. Thirteen members were Emergency Medical Technicians, including one Paramedic, one Intermediate and one member in Intermediate training. Nine members were qualified pump operators and three qualified to operate the LTI ladder tower. Fire response vehicles assigned to the Call Force are a 1976 Maxim Pumper, a 1986 Suburban squad vehicle, and a 1988 utility rescue truck.

The Call Force maintains a high level of training through regular weekly drills, Massachusetts Firefighting Academy training, National Firefighting Academy courses and EMT continuing education units as well as other specialized training. Initiatives included providing a recruit training program, a pump operator course, and a first responder course to various members.

Call Force members are proud to provide volunteer services for events such as the Student Awareness for Fire Safety Education (SAFE) program graduation, muscular dystrophy fund raising, and our National Fire Prevention Week Open House. Call firefighters continue a tradition of dedication and commitment to serving the Town of Amherst.

Student Force

During FY 98, the Student Force was comprised of 14 University of Massachusetts students and three Amherst College students. Eight of the members resided at the North Fire Station, with the remaining nine living in dormitories or local apartments. While the University was in session, the Student Force was "on call" during the day and staffed the 1968 Ward LaFrance pumper nightly from 2345 hours to 0800 hours. In addition, our AFD qualified EMTs staffed the Department's reserve ambulance for both "emergency" and transfer runs. Throughout the regular school year, the Student Force also participated in a variety of details for both the Department and the Town.

During FY 98, the Student Force responded to 83 calls which included: 42 "box alarms," 13 "still alarms," 14 emergency ambulance calls, and 14 non-emergency ambulance transfer calls. Additionally, the Student Force was in-service, in-quarters during the day time for 58 station coverages.

All members returned to Amherst in late August, one week before the start of school, to participate in the annual 60-hour "Wonder Week" of basic training. Throughout the regular school year, the Student Force held a weekly three-hour drill and an all-day drill once a month on a weekend day. Topics that were covered at drills ranged from basic firefighting techniques, as well as "live" structure fires at the Springfield Burn House, to specialized procedures such as "Haz-Mat" emergencies. The Student Force EMTs also participated in Continuing Education classes in the emergency medical services field.

The Student Force during FY 98 was comprised of four officers, two pump operators, and 11 firefighters. Eight members were AFD-qualified EMTs (all EMT-Basics), two were engaged in EMT training and three members were engaged in the pump operator training course.

FIRE DEPARTMENT 5 - YEAR STATISTICAL RECORD

	FY 98	FY 97	FY 96	FY 95	FY 94
Inspections	1,942	2,278	2,189	2,158	2,140
Fire responses	984	1,063	1,155	1,059	1,050
Ambulance responses	2,627	2,436	2,357	2,334	2,195
Emergency totals	3,611	3,499	3,512	3,393	3,245
Fire Loss	\$378,723	\$289,537	\$546,375	\$338,645	\$429,780

Victor J. Zumbroski, Fire Chief

Amherst Health Department FY 98 Annual Report

The mission of the Amherst Board of Health, working through the Health Department, is to promote the health and well-being of our community. We fulfill this mission through our core functions: assurance, assessment, policy development, and promotion.

Assurance: Ensuring that all Amherst residents have the services necessary to maintain or restore good health either by coordinating the delivery of services by other agencies, by policy or regulation development, or by providing services directly.

Assessment: Systematically collecting, assembling, analyzing, and making available information regarding the health of the community, including statistics on health status, community health needs, and epidemiological and other studies of health problems.

Policy Development: Development of comprehensive public health policies.

Promotion: Providing services and educational opportunities that encourage the development of healthy environments and healthy lifestyles.

The work of the Amherst Health Department can be divided into five areas: Access to Health Care; Infectious Disease Control; Disease Prevention; Environmental Health; and Health Policy.

Access to Health Care

Ensuring access to health care for all Amherst residents continues to be a priority for the Department. Hampshire Health Access (HHA) is a collaborative program which links families and individuals who are uninsured or underinsured with physicians and other medical providers willing to provide health care on a sliding fee scale. The program is housed at First Call for Help in the Jones Library. Hampshire Health Access received a grant to do outreach and marketing for two state health insurance programs. This has enabled the project to hire outreach workers to work with the target populations. By the end of the fiscal year, HHA had helped more than 450 people. Of these, 300 are active clients and the others have been linked with appropriate insurance programs. The Health Director chairs the HHA Advisory Board and is currently looking for ways to develop a statewide program.

Infectious Disease Control

More than one hundred and fifty cases of infectious diseases were followed during FY 1998. Some highlights were as follows:

- 56 cases involving Tuberculosis prevention and control
- an outbreak of Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in schools with more than 50 residents receiving prophylactic medicine
- Hepatitis B vaccination series provided to 103 sixth grade children.
- 52 TB screening tests provided
- 7,900 doses of vaccine distributed to seven Amherst providers
- 2 cases of Salmonella, 4 cases of Giardia, 10 cases of Rabies prevention, 10 cases of Campylobacter, 2 active cases of Tb, 2 cases of Shigella, 18 cases of Chickenpox, 1 case of Hepatitis A, 1 case of Giardia, 1 case of Mumps, and 18 cases of Pertussis

- Held Annual Flu Clinic in conjunction with the Council on Aging, providing vaccines for flu, pneumonia, and tetanus to 425 residents. In addition to the Flu Clinic, this year we also had a Health Fair which included blood pressure, blood sugar, eye, cholesterol, hearing, and pulmonary functioning screenings
- Immunization Clinics held monthly provided 99 immunizations to adults and children, and received donations totaling \$284.

Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Youth Health

Coordination of nursing programs in the schools and the Department were greatly improved in FY 98. Monthly meetings between nursing and administrative staffs have resulted in:

- Much better handling of a Pertussis outbreak
- Successful completion of a three-part Hepatitis B clinic held in the elementary schools, resulting in 1/3 of all sixth graders being immunized
- Monthly immunization clinics coordinated by the Department and staffed by volunteers from Kaiser Pediatrics have helped many people receive immunizations, health information, and health insurance referrals.

Cambodian Health

The Department received several grants to be used to improve the health status of Amherst's Cambodian-American residents.

The Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB) gave us \$1,000 to work on Tb prevention. We also received \$600 from the Health In Partnership of Hampshire County. In March, we were notified that we had been awarded a three-year grant to work on sexual assault prevention in this community.

In April, we have hired two Cambodian outreach workers. They have been providing support and sexual assault prevention outreach.

On June 17th, more than 50 people enjoyed Cambodian food and music, and listened to a discussion about Cambodian history, and views on health and sexual harassment.

Alcohol Abuse Education

The Health Director has been active in several Town-University efforts to examine alcohol abuse and underage drinking.

Tobacco Control

Marlene Leach, Amherst's Tobacco Control Coordinator, continues to be active in local and regional efforts to stop tobacco sales to minors, to educate the public about the dangers of smoking, and to enforce regulations that protect the public from environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). Highlights of tobacco control activities are:

- 2 compliance checks of 28 retailers, 89% of retailers being found in compliance; 2 fines were charged
- 27 tobacco retail licenses issued on April 1, 1998.

Revisions of the Tobacco Control Regulations were completed in January 1998, and were passed by the Board of Health on February 26, 1998.

Environmental Issues

Septic Systems

- Working with the Town Sanitarian, David Zarozinski, the Town applied for and received a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection to establish a Betterment Program for property owners to upgrade and repair failing septic systems
- The Board reviewed six applications for variances from septic regulations.

Inspections

The Town Sanitarian conducted 1,043 inspections and issued 379 health permits.

Water Quality

The Board has been asked to pass regulations about manure storage to protect the Town's water supply. The Board is currently looking into this.

Solid Waste

The Board has met several times with Solid Waste Committee members to review and revise regulations.

Air Quality

- The Board reviewed available information about the possible impact on air quality of a parking garage in downtown Amherst
- The Director and the Board's co-chair, Valerie Steinberg, are helping to find solutions to air quality problems in Fort River school.

Health Policy

Tobacco Control

The Amherst Board of Health began taking steps toward creating smoke-free public places in 1984 with regulations which created smoking areas in restaurants. In 1994, the Board passed comprehensive regulations designed to prevent children from buying tobacco products and to protect citizens from exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) in work places and public places. Enforcement of smokefree bars was postponed to allow bar owners time to prepare their customers. Through 1995 and 1996, bar owners were encouraged to come forward with any ideas that would help to protect the public from ETS in bars. None were brought forward. In early 1997, the Board began the task of revising the Tobacco Control Regulations to eliminate inconsistencies and resolve the issue of allowing smoking in bars. The Board explored many options including ventilation systems, separate sections for smokers, and separately enclosed ventilated areas.

Current ventilation technology is designed to remove the odor rather than the carcinogens and toxic gases. Typical ventilation systems would need to be improved 270-fold to reduce

cancer risks to accepted federal standards. The problem with having smoking and non-smoking sections is that even if the smoking area is small, the ventilation system circulates the cigarette smoke throughout the entire establishment. Separately enclosed ventilated areas are expensive to install, require inspection, are not a practical solution for many businesses, and do not protect employees from secondhand smoke.

The Board deliberations have been thorough and respectful. All Board of Health members support the business community here in Amherst and want Town business to thrive. The Board felt that becoming smoke-free is the one option that protects both patrons and employees and provides a level playing field within the Town of Amherst.

Other Policies Under Consideration

The Board is in the process of establishing or revising regulations or policies in the following areas:

- Recycling and Solid Waste
- Biotechnology
- STD's, HIV, and AIDS reporting and follow-up
- Needle Exchange
- Aquifer Protection

Board Changes

Orlando Sola-Gomez, MD, took the place of Dr. Samuel Gladstone on the Board of Health.

FY '98 Board of Health

Valerie Steinberg, Chair

David Buchanan

Marisela Latimer

Amy Rothenberg

Orlando Sola-Gomez

Epi Bodhi, Health Director

AMHERST HISTORICAL COMMISSION

FY 98 Annual Report

Membership: Ellen Goodwin, Marie Burbine-Twohig (Secretary), Perry Thompson, Carol Birtwistle (Vice Chair), Cindy Dickinson, Robin Karson, Don Frizzle (Chair), James Smith, Town Staff Liaison.

The Commission met regularly each month during the year responding to other town committees and citizens regarding historical concerns within the town. Through the Commissions' efforts, the Town received a \$10,000 grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission for the development of National Register District nominations for the area of town along Northampton Road which was an area of early African American settlement, and the West Cemetery, which is the town's earliest burying ground. A consultant has been hired to complete these nominations during the coming year. The Commission also has applied for a grant from the Department of Environmental Management to develop plans for the conservation and preservation of the West Cemetery. This valuable historic site in our town is in great need of attention. In addition, work continues on updating our historical structures inventory. The Commission has requested that an annual budget amount of \$5000 be available for our continued work to preserve the best of our rich historic past. The valuable records of the Commission will soon be moved to the Town Hall in the Planning Department from the Public Works Building. This will provide better access for everyone. The Commission is grateful for the fine support given them by Jim Smith during his years as Town Liaison to the Commission. He will be replaced by Lynda Faye of the Planning Department.

ANNUAL REPORT MARCH 31, 1998

AMHERST HOUSING AUTHORITY
33 KELLOGG AVENUE
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Joan Ross Logan, Chair
Judy Brooks, Vice Chair
Ken Mosakowski, Treasurer
Gerry Pawley, Assistant Treasurer
Mark Enoch, Member

Donna Crabtree, Executive Director

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Four of the Board members are elected at large by the voters of the Town of Amherst and one member is appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All members serve five-year terms. The members establish policies regulating the operation of the Amherst Housing Authority. Regular Board meetings are usually held on the fourth Monday of the month with the meeting locations rotating between the community rooms at Ann Whalen Apartments and Chestnut Court Apartments.

Members of the Amherst Housing Authority Board of Commissioners are:

Commissioner	Term Expiration
Judy Brooks	April 2000
Mark Enoch	April 2002
Joan Ross Logan	April 2002
Ken Mosakowski	April 1999
Gerry Pawley	April 2001

At their annual meeting in April, Joan Logan was elected Chair, Judy Brooks Vice-Chair, Mark Enoch Treasurer, and Ken Mosakowski Assistant Treasurer.

Mark Enoch was re-appointed by the Governor for an additional five year term in August, 1997.

AMHERST HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

In addition to the actual day-to-day management, maintenance, and administration of the Authority's programs, the AHA staff provides housing referrals and information to the general public and to local and state agencies and boards.

Administrative Personnel

Executive Director	Donna Crabtree
Housing Manager	Nancy Schroeder
Director of Housing Programs	Paula Sayword
Office Manager	Pam Collins
Section 8 Program Assistant	Aida Santa
Administrative Assistant	Debbie Turgeon
Housing Inspector	Kevin McQuillen

Maintenance Personnel

Maintenance Supervisor/Mechanic	Jerry Aldrich
Maintenance Laborer	John Summers
Groundskeeper/Custodian	Keith Healy

Contract or Grant-Funded Staff

Support Service Coordinator	Eunice Torres
Fee Accountant	Gary DePace
Counsel-State Programs	Sandy Sprague, Esq.
Auditor	J. Thomas Hurley, CPA

AMHERST HOUSING AUTHORITY HOUSING

NAME OF BUILDING	# OF UNITS	FUNDING TYPE	BUILDING NUMBER	DATE OF OCCUPANCY
ELDERLY/ HANDICAPPED				
Chestnut Court Apts.	30	State	667-1	1962
Ann Whalen Apts.	80	State	667-2	1975
Jean Elder House	23	State-Congregate	667-3	1980
FAMILY				
Watson Farms Apts.	15	Federal	085-1	1982
Stanley St.	2	State	705-2	1988
Jenks St.	4	State	705-3	1989
Olympia Drive	4	State	705-1	1992
Fairfield St.	6	State	705-1	1992
Bridge St./Market Hill	6	State	705-1	1992
HANDICAPPED				
John C. Nutting	5	State	689-1	1981
Moreau House	2	State	698-2	1990

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS UNDER CONTRACT

NAME OF PROGRAM	UNITS	TYPE
Section 8 Rental Certificate Program	210	Federal
Mass. Rental Voucher Program	65	State
Alternative Housing Voucher Program	18	State

AMHERST HOUSING AUTHORITY HIGHLIGHTS

Amherst Housing Authority Commissioners, staff, residents, neighbors, and friends celebrated the 35th anniversary of Chestnut Court with a block party/barbecue in May. Prior to the event, the Community room and kitchen were modernized.

Other groups of tenants also hold community pot-lucks from time to time. These speak only to their desire to get together and not to any historical marker. They are generated by the tenants to which staff and Board are invited.

The AHA continues to improve its existing management, maintenance, and rental assistance programs and to emphasize preventative maintenance.

Maintenance/Capital Improvements

During the year, the Authority completed several capital improvement projects. These include renovations of the bathrooms at Chestnut Court Apts., upgrading the elevator system at Ann Whalen Apts., and roof and heating system replacements at Watson Farms Apts.

Other extraordinary maintenance during the past year included replacing zone valves, carpets and floors, cabinets and siding on our properties.

The maintenance staff prepared 32 vacancies for occupancy and maintained the grounds and buildings at the Authority's eleven properties.

Management

In 1997, the Authority was designated, yet again, as a high performer by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. We received a 100% score on the HUD Management Assessment Program.

The AHA installed a new computer system with a local area network. AHA administrative staff successfully integrated the system and its new housing software. This took enormous patience and truly hard work.

The Authority processed 392 new applications during the year and maintained a waiting list of 1044 applicants.

Rental Assistance Programs

The AHA administers two rental assistance programs: the Section 8 Program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development. Both programs permit eligible households to occupy privately owned units. The Authority pays part of the monthly rent directly to the owner. Over 75 local owners participate in the programs.

Resident Services

The Support Service Program, through its Coordinator, arranges for counseling, individual assessments, support, and crisis intervention to elderly/handicapped residents. The program also provides a number of educational forums for residents.

The Family Self Sufficiency Program for residents of Watson Farms Apartments and participants in the Section 8 program attempts to make families economically independent by utilizing existing private and public resources and integrating them into individual training and service plans.

AMHERST HOUSING AUTHORITY
CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES
FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1998

	FEDERAL PROGRAMS	STATE PROGRAMS	TOTAL
<u>Operating Receipts</u>			
Rental Income	27,253	384,321	411,574
Interest	1505	8,307	9812
Other income	0	5,317	5317
Earned operating subsidy	11,724	85,848	97,572
Earned administrative fees	125,385	17,450	142,835
Housing Assistance payments	1,297,431	245,944	1,543,375
Total Receipts	1,463,298	747,187	2,210,485
<u>Operating Expenses</u>			
Administrative	97,663	112,391	210,054
Maintenance	26,255	130,194	156,449
Utilities	3678	133,455	137,133
Insurance	8588	9809	18,397
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	2422	8030	10452
Employee benefits	32,589	51,044	83,633
Extraordinary Items	1859	5242	7101
Rental Subsidies	1,297,431	245,944	1,543,375
Total Expenses	1,470,485	696,109	2,166,594
Operating Reserve Account	-7,187	51,078	43,891

HOUSING PARTNERSHIP/FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
FY 98

The Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee works on Town issues related to the protection of tenant rights, prevention of discriminatory practices in housing, the preservation or production of affordable housing, and the promotion of home ownership opportunities for first time home buyers.

The Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee (HP/FHC) has updated the booklet "The Rights & Responsibilities of Landlords & Tenants in Amherst" for Town-wide distribution. This is a cooperative project with the UMass Office of Commuter Services & Housing Resources. This booklet has proven to be an effective tool in preventing misunderstandings and conflicts between landlords and tenants in Amherst.

This past year the Housing Partnership reviewed petition articles to Town Meeting for 1) the proposed eminent domain taking of Gilreath Manor apartments in North Amherst, and 2) the request to the state legislature to require the University of Massachusetts to rehabilitate University Apartments. The Housing Partnership also reviewed the request by Habitat for Humanity for the sale of Town land on West Pomeroy Lane for the purpose of affordable home ownership. The Housing Partnership will be developing criteria for the disposition of this parcel.

Members:

Joanne Levenson, Chair
 Madeline Marquez
 Sarena Neyman
 Vladimir Morales
 Diane Hamil



AMHERST

Massachusetts

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SHENANDOAH TITUS
HUMAN RIGHTS DIRECTOR
TTY - Available for the hearing impaired

OFFICE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIRECTOR*"For a better Amherst"*Annual Town Report, Fiscal Year 1998

This report will include activities of the Office of the Human Rights Director and the Civil Rights Review Commission. May 12, 1998 marked the first anniversary of the Human Rights Director's Office. While we are pleased with our efforts and successes during the past year, we recognize that there is yet much work to do in pursuit of our mission to safeguard the rights of all citizens and to build unity in Amherst across racial and class lines.

Despite our humble beginnings wherein we lacked adequate office space, the Human Rights Director now has offices in both Town Hall and the Bangs Community Center. Our Town Hall office serves as the administrative base, as well as providing an opportunity for our intern staff of six to meet and interact with Town officials in a respectful work environment.

The Director handled a number of confidential complaints over the past year, both formal and informal, thus making good use of the privacy and easy public access provided by our Bangs office. Persons from the private sector as well as Town employees called upon the Director's services, and we anticipate greater use of the office as the public becomes more aware of our presence and functions. This increased volume of complaints, in addition to the numerous other duties of the Human Rights Director, will no doubt pose a challenge to what is essentially a one person department. Therefore, in the coming year, we will seek to add a part-time paid staff member to the office.

In May, the Civil Rights Review Commission voted unanimously to appoint the Human Rights Director to serve as the Commission's Executive Director, with the requisite authority to exert active leadership. The Commission also adopted the Director's proposal to establish an Executive Committee composed of the two Co-Chairs, the Select Board Liaison, and the Director as part of its reorganization initiative. This action has already resulted in more efficient communication as well as providing needed structure and direction.

Moreover, the Commission adopted the Director's proposal to change its name to the more inclusive title of Human Rights Commission, and to pursue explicit statutory subpoena power. Said power is implicit within the Town's existing Civil Rights statute.

continued...



We anticipate putting the issue of our proposed name change and clarification of our enforcement authority (i.e., subpoena power) before Town Meeting in the spring of 1999.

In summary, this has been a challenging and exciting year in human rights. We will maintain our sense of optimism and purpose as we move forward with our mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Shenandoah Titus
Shenandoah Titus
Human Rights Director
Executive Director, CRRC

AMHERST INSPECTION SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 98

The Inspection Services Department is still experiencing an increased volume of permits issued for large as well as small projects. For example, in FY 98 we issued 12 permits for major projects, with a combined estimated cost of \$18,663,383; this has had an enormous impact on our workload. For small projects such as private additions and alterations, 442 permits were issued, with a total estimated cost of \$4,149,053.

All Building Inspectors working for the Town of Amherst are state certified. To maintain that certification, inspectors must obtain 45 credit hours of continuing education every three years. This state certification is also being required of the Sealer of Weights and Measures and the Town's Electrical Inspector. I believe this trend will spread to other inspection functions as well.

William L. Start
Building Commissioner

INSPECTION SERVICES

SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS

<u>CALENDAR YEAR</u>	<u># OF PERMITS</u>
1981	40
1982	25
1983	59
1984	73
1985	112
1986	118
1987 Jan. - June	56 (Six Months)
<u>FISCAL YEAR (July - June)</u>	<u># OF PERMITS</u>
FY 88	43
FY 89	69
FY 90	30
FY 91	29
FY 92	22
FY 93	45
FY 94	51
FY 95	41
FY 96	36
FY 97	39
FY98	30

INSPECTION SERVICES

PERMITS ISSUED

FY 89 - FY 98

	FY 1989	FY 1990	FY 1991	FY 1992	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
BUILDING PERMITS	491	458	442	479	538	552	633	645	795	704
DEMOLITION PERMITS	17	15	9	6	10	6	8	5	8	8
PLUMBING PERMITS	224	216	166	229	244	290	319	304	325	329
GAS PERMITS	106	129	136	198	215	286	412	204	236	196
ELECTRICAL PERMITS	702	510	461	758	550	703	1031	908	842	977
CERTIFICATES OF INSPECTIONS	372	293	197	209	383	277	318	261	255	344
WEIGHTS & MEASURES										44
TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED	1912	1621	1411	1879	1940	2114	2721	2327	2461	2602

INCOME FOR INSPECTION SERVICES
FISCAL YEAR 1998

Building Permits	Income	Permits	Gas Permits	Income	Permits
July	26,188.70	74	July	925.00	29
August	104,969.60	82	August	1,920.00	24
September	11,862.80	57	September	770.00	23
October	42,691.50	55	October	475.00	16
November	7,387.80	51	November	505.00	13
December	7,125.70	39	December	565.00	19
January	6,082.50	34	January	745.00	13
February	26,841.80	46	February	545.00	14
March	7,560.20	53	March	400.00	11
April	23,713.30	63	April	410.00	11
May	9,878.44	61	May	335.00	8
June	19,759.76	89	June	475.00	15
Total	294,062.10	704	Total	8,070.00	196
Demolition Permits			Electrical Permits		
July	0.00	0	July	8,200.00	75
August	50.00	1	August	4,039.00	102
September	50.00	1	September	7,890.00	149
October	50.00	1	October	3,110.00	74
November	0.00	0	November	3,625.00	63
December	0.00	0	December	4,480.00	59
January	0.00	0	January	2,875.00	56
February	50.00	1	February	3,650.00	54
March	50.00	1	March	16,119.00	63
April	25.00	1	April	2,955.00	57
May	100.00	2	May	6,620.00	63
June	0.00	0	June	3,980.00	162
Total	375.00	8	Total	67,543.00	977
Plumbing Permits			Certificates of Inspection		
July	1,845.00	31	July	546.00	5
August	1,315.00	23	August	600.00	19
September	1,495.00	24	September	19,358.00	136
October	3,010.00	60	October	140.00	13
November	2,200.00	16	November	2,105.00	29
December	1,293.00	24	December	2,769.00	38
January	760.00	17	January	1,079.00	12
February	1,860.00	25	February	601.00	7
March	1,515.00	28	March	75.00	1
April	4,130.00	18	April	1,941.00	16
May	1,885.00	33	May	4,025.00	31
June	3,840.00	30	June	3,413.00	37
Total	25,148.00	329	Total	36,652.00	344
GRAND TOTALS		431,850.10			2558
Wgts & Meas		2,208.00			44
Total		434,058.10			2602

**AMHERST INSPECTION SERVICES
INCOME FY 1994 - FY 1998**

	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98
JULY	30,215.30	25,525.35	25,524.70	44,582.28	38,064.70
AUGUST	26,132.44	17,435.00	22,645.90	21,534.50	113,266.60
SEPTEMBER	58,643.90	26,771.55	23,980.40	34,683.64	41,705.80
OCTOBER	19,218.00	17,179.50	30,893.70	21,197.00	50,511.50
NOVEMBER	25,195.15	21,411.10	18,488.60	31,821.05	15,832.80
DECEMBER	17,917.20	20,154.55	19,755.00	128,061.00	16,357.70
JANUARY	9,161.00	6,120.00	16,657.60	16,575.80	11,556.50
FEBRUARY	8,299.30	18,391.00	11,286.12	8,660.00	33,547.80
MARCH	24,961.15	21,061.76	15,593.43	25,441.00	25,719.20
APRIL	31,777.80	26,783.20	18,268.30	20,163.10	33,184.30
MAY	31,054.00	46,665.98	34,737.61	28,258.80	22,843.44
JUNE	61,883.20	83,309.80	49,486.90	49,706.70	31,467.76
TOTAL	344,458.44	330,808.79	287,318.26	430,684.87	434,058.10
BUDGET ACTUAL	216,297.00	228,289.00	216,954.00	287,044.00	311,679.00

FEES INCREASED - MARCH 1992

FEES WAIVED
 FY95 - 9 Permits \$13,355.00
 FY96 - 15 Permits \$ 1,488.00
 FY97 - 29 Permits \$ 2,965.00
 FY98 - 54 Permits \$ 4,040.00

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

FY 98

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NATURE OF WORK</u>	<u>EST. COST</u>
Louis R. Cohn P.O. Box 397 Bloomfield, CT	81 Belchertown Road	Fire Damaged Building Units 65 - 72	\$312,494.00
Amherst Shopping Center Associates 40 Salem Street Lynnfield, MA	175 University Drive	New Big Y Supermarket	\$ 3,247,000.00
Richard Slobody 479 West Street Amherst, MA	101 University Drive	New Office Building Amherst Technology Park	\$1,973,790.00
Ronald LaVerdiere 441 West Street Amherst, MA	433 West Street	New Commercial & Residential Building	\$490,000.00
Trustees of Amherst College Physical Plant Amherst, MA	Experimental Theater	Addition & Renovation to Kirby Theater	\$1,193,277.00
Arbors Limited Partnership 150 University Drive Amherst, MA 01002	130 University Drive	New 78 Unit Living Care Facility	\$3,500,000.00
Amherst Shopping Center Associates 40 Salem Street Lynnfield, MA	175 University Drive	New CVS Pharmacy	\$630,000.00
Trustees of Amherst College Physical Plant Amherst, MA	Webster Biology	Renovation	\$2,266,822.00

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NATURE OF WORK</u>	<u>EST. COST</u>
Trustees of Amherst College Physical Plant Amherst, MA	Alumni Gym	Renovation	\$3,693,000.00
Echo Village Corp. P.O. Box 46 Amherst, MA	30 Gate house Road	Addition to N.E.S.	\$440,000.00
John Wrobelski 15 Straits Road, RFD So. Deerfield, MA	22 High Street	2 New Town House Units 10 Units	\$684,000.00
F.L. Roberts & Co. Inc. 793 West Broad Street Springfield, MA	397 Northampton Road	Quick Lube	\$233,000.00

**AMHERST INSPECTION SERVICES
HEALTH PERMITS
FY 98**

<u>PERMITS</u>	<u>FY 97 INCOME</u>	<u>PERMITS ISSUED</u>	<u>INSPECTIONS</u>
FOOD	20,180.00	152	548
RETAIL	3,190.00	23	72
CATERING	900.00	8	*
BAKERY	720.00	9	*
MILK & CREAM	160.00	20	NA
HOUSING INSPECTIONS	2,950.00	NA	220
POOLS	4,638.00	21	44
MASSAGE/TANNING	1,518.00	28	28
REC. CAMPS	300.00	6	6
MOTELS/BED & BREAKFAST	350.00	7	**
GARBAGE/OFFAL	2,450.00	18	NA
PERC/SEPTIC	3,480.00	21	21
SEPTIC INSTALLER	450.00	12	NA
TOTAL	\$41,286.00	325	939

* Included with Food Inspections

** Included with Housing

THE JONES LIBRARY, INC.
MUNSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY, NORTH AMHERST LIBRARY
Fiscal Year 1998

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Adult Services. Thanks to a federal Library Services and Technology Act grant, the library reached out to families who were new to public library services. Day care centers, shelters, the WIC office, the Amherst Family Center and other agencies that assist low income families publicized new multi-media kits full of books, audio and video tapes, puppets, and games in Spanish and in English. Over 100 pre-school children attended puppet shows promoting library collections and services in North Amherst and at the Jones Library.

Children's Library. Guests at the "American Girls" Party enjoyed period crafts and food, plus a host of cute, historical dolls. Six library staff members organized this unusual event, based on an extremely popular series of historical novels for children. Thousands of children attended over 200 reading-related programs at the libraries in FY 1998.

English as a Second Language. Seventy eight students learned English through one to one instruction and attended classes in citizenship at the ESL Center. Fifty dedicated volunteer tutors donated over 7,700 hours of help so that refugees and immigrants could become self-reliant and make their own contribution to the community.

Reference. The Jones Library went on-line with an official website in December, 1997. Hosted by the Daily Hampshire Gazette, the website offers information on library services and events, as well as links to recommended electronic resources. The site is visited by people from all over the country. Numan Williams from Muncie, Indiana, wrote in to share fond memories of the North Amherst Library in the 1930's after re-visiting the library on the World Wide Web!

Special Collections. New acquisitions expanded the historical archives. The Seymour L. Rudman Postal History of Amherst Collection documented 13 volumes of correspondence and postmarks, illustrating Amherst's postal services from 1816 to the present. Nationally known author Julius Lester made significant addition to the Julius Lester Collection, including original manuscripts and computer disks, photographs, and family papers. Nearly 200 photographs of one of Amherst's earliest African American families expanded resources on local African American history, a gift of Paul Newport.

North Amherst Library. The Summer Reading Club slogan "Unlock the Mystery-Read" sparked reading activities for 160 children in North Amherst. All club members mysteriously appeared on wanted posters, and some even learned to make disappearing ink as part of weekly activities for kids. The three libraries encouraged 469 children in Summer Reading Clubs, funded in part by the library's fabulous Friends of the Jones Library System.

Munson Memorial Library. "Mom, don't you think we have the best librarians in the whole world? They work so hard even if a little kid wants to get a book that's really, really hard to find and they won't stop trying until they find it." Librarians really, really appreciate fan mail, too, like this letter received in South Amherst! Munson Memorial Library set another branch record, lending 58,223 items in FY 1998!

Technical Services The Technical Services staff solved the serious problem of getting specialized computer records for the on-line catalog. With the help of Amherst College's Frost Library, Jones Library staff gained access to a national database at OCLC in Ohio. Through this cooperative approach, the library's old manual cataloging records that describe rare and out of print materials are being updated into computer format. Thanks to support from Frost Library, we are moving forward. The dedicated staff of the Technical Services Department processed 9,068 new books, 2,126 new audiovisual titles, and 142 other items, such as puppets, CD ROM's puzzles, and book/tape sets, for the reading public.

Administration. The Board of Trustees organized its First Annual Fund Drive to ask library borrowers and friends to sustain the special qualities of the Jones Library and branches with a personal gift. Contributions totaled \$23,070 by June 30, 1998, making this first fund drive a resounding success! On June 30, 1998, with the Dow Jones Market Index at 8,952, Fleet Investment Advisors listed the market value of the library endowment at \$8,494,182.

Bonnie Isman, Library Director

CIRCULATION	FY 97	FY 98
Jones - Adults	267,141	259,412
Jones - Kids	147,052	144,013
Munson Memorial	54,993	58,223
North Amherst Library	35,465	43,423
	-----	-----
TOTAL	504,651	505,071

REFERENCE SERVICE	FY 97	FY 98
Jones - Adult	20,309	17,676
Jones - Kids	5,614	5,936
Special Collections	5,093	5,270
Branch Libraries	3,159	3,078
	-----	-----
TOTAL	34,175	31,960

**NUMBER OF REGISTERED BORROWERS,
June 30, 1998**

ADULTS	36,238
CHILDREN	4,884
Total New borrowers during FY 98	3,157
Jones and branch libraries	

COLLECTIONS ON HAND	FY 97	FY 98
Volumes	171,860	177,775
Audiovisual Items	16,103	14,901
Miscellaneous	1,156	396

REPORT OF THE KANEGASAKI SISTER CITY COMMITTEE
Fiscal Year 1998

The Kanegasaki Sister City Committee was established by the Select Board following the signing in 1993 of an official agreement between Amherst and Kanegasaki, Iwate, Japan. The agreement formalized a relationship--one of citizen exchanges--that had developed over a period of five years.

The Committee is charged with promoting friendship and on-going relations with Kanegasaki. The relationship is to be accomplished through various special events and on-going contacts between residents or government bodies of the two communities, and is to be of mutual benefit to them. The Committee works with town and school officials to organize delegation exchanges of officials, citizens, members of the business community, and students.

Membership

Voting members of the Committee include 7 (later changed to 15) representatives of the Town and staff from the school system. The following were members of the Committee at the outset of FY 98: Sara Berger, Takeo Inouye, Kathleen Woods Masalski (chair), Anna Pearce, Carolyn Peelle, Louise Reilly (clerk), and Sovan-Komar Loeung (who never attended a meeting). Steven Ruhl and Ruth Owen Jones joined the Committee in 1998. Sara Berger's term of office expired in June 1998; the Committee thanks her for her many contributions.

Barry Del Castilho is staff liaison, while Hill Boss serves as Select Board liaison. Judith Inglese, Daniel Lombardo, and Gus Sayer--all of whom have visited Kanegasaki--regularly attend Committee meetings. Up to seven vacancies exist on the Committee.

The Committee met regularly during the fiscal year. Meetings were held on Wednesdays of alternate months.

Special Events

In November 1997 Amherst rededicated its Town Hall. A delegation from Kanegasaki, headed by Mayor Norio Takahashi, traveled to Amherst to join in the celebration. A lacquered wall hanging was presented by the Mayor to the Town on the occasion. The Town sent back to Kanegasaki with the delegation a collection of books for its soon-to-be-dedicated town library.

In preparation for the rededication and visit, Daniel Lombardo of the Jones Library arranged an exhibit on Kanegasaki in the Town Room, Town Hall, to commemorate the sister-city relationship. The exhibit included photos, ceremonial masks, a decorated lacquer cabinet, a daruma, and other items to educate the townspeople about our sister city.

In May 1998 Daniel Lombardo also represented Amherst at the dedication of Kanegasaki's Town Library. His presentation included a poem by Emily Dickinson, to whom a corner of the new library is dedicated.

Exchanges

In August 1997 the Committee said farewell to Eishi Miya, Public Housing Director in Kanegasaki's Planning Department, who had spent June, July, and August in Amherst on a municipal employee exchange. Steven Ruhl, Program Coordinator for Youth and Adult Education for the Department of Leisure Services and Adult Supplemental Education, traveled to Kanegasaki for a two-month stay beginning in October 1997. Upon his return, he submitted a report on his activities, especially in connection with Kanegasaki's Lifelong Learning Center.

The annual visit to Amherst by Kanegasaki Junior High School students took place in March 1998. The group of twenty-eight students and four adults were hosted by many Amherst residents. The visitors invited their hosts to a sayonara party at the Lord Jeffery Inn.

In June 1998 Amherst Regional High School and the sister-city Committee said farewell to Asuka Ito, a student from Kanegasaki, who was hosted during her several month stay by the Gray family on South East Street.

Both towns are working on an exchange of historic documents. Kanegasaki is collecting photos of its castle district, while the Amherst Historical Commission and Daniel Lombardo of the Jones Library are selecting appropriate photographs from the Town's several historic districts.

Future Plans

At the close of the fiscal year, the Committee awaited word from The Freeman Foundation on the fate of the Committee's proposal for partial support of Amherst students' and teachers' travel to Kanegasaki in February 1999.

Mayor Norio Takahashi has invited a representative of Amherst to speak on the subject of lifelong learning at Kanegasaki's anniversary celebration of the Lifelong Learning Declaration in July 1999. The LSSE "Anne of Green Gables" cast members and musicians plan to perform in Kanegasaki on the weekend following the town's celebration.

A sister-city subcommittee hopes to submit to a yet-to-be-named foundation a proposal to support a symposium in Amherst celebrating lifelong learning. A delegation from Kanegasaki will be invited to attend.

The Committee welcomes new members and support from the community, especially from those who have been guests of Kanegasaki in Japan.

Submitted by Kathleen Woods Masalski
Chair of the Amherst-Kanegasaki Sister City Committee

FY 98 ANNUAL REPORT
Amherst Leisure Services and Supplemental Education Department

Community Service Awards, Volunteers, and LSSE Honors

It was a pleasure to honor the eminent recipients of LSSE's three community service awards during FY 98. For distinguished community service efforts within the Amherst Youth Basketball program, Roger Wallace received the 1998 Coach of the Year Award. In recognition of outstanding community service within all programs and settings, Ron Bell received the 1998 Quality of Life Award. In honor of tremendous community service efforts within the arts, LSSE presented its Arts and Supplemental Education Award to the Pistrang and Mullins family. This was the first time that an LSSE community service award was presented to a family of volunteers. The Pistrang and Mullins family were thanked for their three generations of volunteer service within the arts. All three community service awards were given to recognize those who have devoted their time and skills to significantly enhancing the quality of recreation in the Amherst community and within LSSE's programs.

LSSE's community service awards thank just a few of the many outstanding volunteers who annually serve the Amherst community within a recreational setting. During FY 98, volunteer numbers again topped 800, as community members served in the capacity of coach, chaperone, safety monitor, event organizer and more. LSSE's Amherst Youth Basketball Program, Hot Summer Nights, the Fourth of July, the Downhill Ski Program, School's Out Trips, the Amherst Auction, the Boltwood Project, the new Open Arms Project, and the Amherst Leisure Services Community Theater represent just some of the many programs that benefit from the support of LSSE's committed volunteers.

During the fall of FY 98, Steven Ruhl, LSSE's Youth and Adult Supplemental Education Program Director, spent several months in Kanegasaki, Japan, in a sister city employee exchange. The Department was grateful for the opportunity to broaden its understanding of Kanegasaki's government and, specifically, to study the operations of recreation and education programs in one of Japan's foremost communities known for its commitment to "Lifelong Learning." The Department continues to explore the benefits of other potential collaborations with Kanegasaki and to consider applications for Kanegasaki's Lifelong Learning philosophy within our Department's mission and goals.

LSSE was the recipient of a UMASS and Department of Mental Retardation Collaboration grant in FY 98. LSSE also was cited by the Department of Mental Retardation with a special award for meritorious work in providing a creative and successful program. Open Arms: A Peer Support Project, coordinated by Ezzell Floranina, was one of eight programs to receive this special citation. The Open Arms Project works with developmentally delayed youth and adults.

Administration and Facilities

FY 98 was an active year for staff changes at LSSE with turnover once again creating difficult programming periods. Toward the end of FY 98, Telu Resurreccion left the Department as Registrar and was replaced by Tracy-Lee Boutilier. In the spring, Candace Jernigan left the

position of Office Manager and Laurel Kushi returned. Mark Miville was hired to replace Lynn Yovina as Program Assistant. It is anticipated that the LSSE Registrar position may see less turnover in the future as a result of Town Meeting approval of a full time position in FY 99.

LSSE continued its endeavor to provide the first Town-owned soccer fields in the eastern portion of Amherst at Wentworth Farms. These efforts follow many years of looking for a way to support the large volunteer soccer organization's youth program and the critical need for safer and more reliable playing fields.

LSSE's involvement in the arts prompted the Committee for the Amherst Cinema Center Project to invite LSSE to be involved in the committee's plans for a new community arts center. In FY 98, a representative from the LSSE Commission began to participate in the Visioning Process as part of a townwide comprehensive planning effort.

Grants and Sponsorships

In FY 98, the Department received grants from the following local and state sources:

- The Amherst Cultural Council
- The Massachusetts Department of Public Safety
- The Massachusetts Cultural Council and
- 2 grants from the Department of Mental Retardation
- 2 grants from The Amherst Club

Additionally, numerous sponsorships have been obtained from local businesses and private donors to support the Leisure Times publication, the Passages Camp, the Open Arms Project, the summer camp programs, LSSE's arts programs, Hot Summer Nights, the Fourth of July program and others.

Youth Sports

In FY 98 LSSE provided registration assistance for more than 2000 youth soccer players and also assisted with field and facility coordination for volunteer organizations like the Amherst Lassie League Program, the Amherst Youth Baseball program, and the Pop Warner Football Program. LSSE promoted and implemented a Youth Sports Spring Registration Day and offered National Youth Sports Coaches training programs to each league. LSSE also provided support for the Sugarloaf Youth Track League.

Youth sports programs directly administered by LSSE included the Middle School Gym Jam, the Amherst Youth Basketball Program, the Girls Traveling Basketball Program, the Middle School Volleyball Program, the Open Gym Youth Basketball Program and more than 14 sports and 22 sessions of summer sports camps. The Amherst Youth Basketball Program provided 970 players with a safe recreational outlet and the LSSE Summer Sports camps attracted 585 campers to a sports activity.

Adult Sports

Basketball, volleyball, and softball continue to be popular adult sports for the Amherst community, and year-round leagues were offered to meet the need. A strong drop-in program

exists for adult volleyball with more than 1600 players participating. Adult Drop-In Basketball suffers from a lack of facility space as do each of the three adult sports leagues that LSSE offers. Nevertheless, 481 players participated in the Adult Drop-In Basketball Program. A school year tennis program is provided through a collaboration with the Bay Road Tennis Club. The Mill River and Middle School tennis courts are available in early fall and summer.

Youth and Adult Education Programs

New and popular adult education courses for FY 98 included Qigong, which joins Yoga and Tai Chi as strong alternative health offerings for the adult student. Coping With Adult Attention Deficit Disorder, Edible Wild Plant Walk, Money Control, and Renaissance Court Dance all provided interesting new courses for adults. Reliable favorite core classes in the adult and youth programs included: Ceramics, At Home With Emily Dickinson, Astronomy, Dog Obedience, Driver's Education, Guitar, Horseback Riding, numerous dance courses, Music and Movement for Little People and many others. Unfortunately the Department lost most of its visual arts programming in FY 98 due to instructor illness.

Youth Programs and Special Events

LSSE's youth and teen downhill ski and snowboarding program saw a considerable increase in participation last year, with 234 students involved, an increase from the previous year's 165 students. LSSE's provision for this winter activity includes travel, instruction, supervision, and equipment rental.

Passages, DARE, Adventure Playground, Early Adventures, and the Summer Theater Works Camps comprised LSSE's day camp offerings for FY 98. LSSE offered one week camp sessions this past year in addition to our standard two week sessions, as a way of providing more convenient scheduling opportunities for busy Amherst youth. A school bus was also put into operation by LSSE with the assistance of the School Department, for safe passage to and from camp. LSSE's total day camp population was 701 with children from age 5 through 14 participating.

Here again new state regulations from the Department of Public Health resulted in increased safety as well as costs for each day camp program. In FY 98 all of LSSE's day camps required weekly inspections, licensing and staff background checks.

LSSE's Prime Time After School Program at Wildwood School continues to be popular with 98 children participating in the three school year sessions. LSSE's vacation camps help to bridge two weeks of needed child care for working parents. A rich offering of recreational activities in a safe environment with caring staff was our objective. School's Out Trips provide a special attraction field trip during each of the vacation weeks and also during a Fall vacation day. While the Town has provided assistance to families with children with special needs during the summer camps, this kind of assistance is now being requested by parents for school year programs as well. At any given time this past summer, as many as 11 children with special needs were in the day camps with one-on-one assistance provided.

Special events during FY 98 ran the gamut of perennial favorites including the Halloween Window Painting Program, Hot Summer Nights and the Fourth of July celebration. The Amherst Leisure Services Community Theater Program cast 68 children and adults in the play "Anne of Green Gables" performing to combined audiences of approximately 4,000. Many volunteers acted as crew members to support behind-the-scenes activities. Kanegasaki, our sister city in Japan, subsequently invited a portion of the cast to visit Kanegasaki for a celebration performance in July of 1999. A benefit concert with the South African Children's Advancement Fund in Amherst became a collaboration between that organization and the Department. Additionally, the Department continued to assist the Valley Light Opera with publicity and ticket sales. The Fleet Discover Amherst Family Series, a popular children's performance series produced by the Department, also continued to please LSSE day campers and the public.

Aquatics

Group swimming lessons for youth and adults in both the indoor and outdoor pools totaled 949 participants in FY 98. Additional lessons were offered within LSSE's day camp programs, private day camp programs, summer school special needs programs and through private instruction. Wading pool attendants for the outdoor pools were added in FY '98. The new attendant position provided a better opportunity to monitor the safety and water chemistry conditions at two of the three wading pools, resulting in fewer mechanical problems and less down time. New health code regulations for swimming areas were also announced in FY 98. Beginning in January 1999, all swimming pools must have a certified pool operator (CPO) on staff. LSSE has voluntarily provided a CPO on staff at its outdoor pools for years. This is the first year, however, that a CPO will be provided at the indoor school pool.

Summary

Advances and setbacks were both a part of the year for LSSE. LSSE staff developed an LSSE web site at <http://www.lsse.org> to continue to reach out to as much of the community as possible. Staff and the LSSE Commission adopted a new LSSE slogan, "Leading the Way in Recreation and Lifelong Learning," and work continues on the Department's mission and goal statements. The University of Massachusetts and DMR Collaboration Grant, obtained for a second year in a row, has allowed the beneficial Open Arms Project to continue. Steven Ruhl's sister city employee exchange trip to Kanegasaki, Japan, was a Department highlight. Steve's experience has broadened our scope and vision of the possibilities for the philosophy of lifelong learning and ways that it can be more fully integrated into the community.

Program setbacks primarily revolved around the scarcity of physical resources and our lack of control of the resources that we did use. For the second year in a row, LSSE, in order to operate its Summer Sports Camp Programs, had to rent gymnasium space in Hadley. Despite a good working relationship with the Hadley School Department, some needed space was not available. Some programs therefore had to be canceled even when a strong interest in enrollment existed. This condition was caused by the work on the new high school addition and now that this work is completed it is anticipated that programming can continue. It is not clear whether the summer camp participants that were lost to us during the renovation will return, however. Routine maintenance and a steady stream of school capital projects continued to make hosting programs within the schools, particularly during the summer, a challenging experience. Early Adventures, a

summer day camp for 5 and 6 year olds has traditionally been held at the Wildwood School. This site is the most advantageous due to its centralized location, its proximity to our other camps, staff, and equipment located at the Middle School, its proximity to the War Memorial and Mill River Swimming Pools and Recreation Areas, its related school year use as an after school site, its preference by parents, and the physical layout and amenities of the school itself. School maintenance projects have threatened this site for the last three years and during that time the camp has been relocated to either Mark's Meadow or Crocker Farm Schools.

The Passages Camp has just completed its fourth year of operation; however, this program continues to experience both location and funding problems. Relying primarily on grant funding and Amherst College for space, this program has worked to serve low income and at risk teens in the community. While Amherst College has served as a generous host for the last three years providing space for a very small fee, each year the location is in question and handicapped accessible space has often been unavailable.

Pressing enrollment in programs like LSSE's Amherst Youth Basketball Program have pushed the envelope for programming hours in spaces like the Amherst Middle School Gymnasium. This program continues to see growth, with basketball games sometimes taking place until 11:00 at night. Youth classes have been difficult to schedule in the elementary schools, despite an interest on the part of parents, due to the lack of community space within the schools. Classroom space is unavailable until after 6:00 PM, making after school programming exceedingly difficult. Growth of adult sports programs has been limited for years due to space shortages.

These and other issues have spawned an interest in a search for additional community recreation space. LSSE Commission members, community leaders and others will be grappling with these difficulties in the year to come.

Linda Chalfant
Director

ANNUAL REPORT

The Board of Trustees of Munson Memorial Library

July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998

This has been a year of change for the Board. As of July 1, 1997, The Board members are no longer responsible for scheduling the use of the auditorium and meeting room facilities. Constantly increasing use of those facilities had increased the scope of the scheduling responsibilities to the point that they were beyond the level that could be expected of the volunteer Trustees. After meetings with Nancy Pagano and Barbara Taylor of the Bangs Center staff, they have assumed, for the Town, those responsibilities. Considerable correspondence between the Trustees and the Town with the facilities' long-term users was necessary to make this change occur. After a year's experience with the new arrangement, it can be confidently stated that it is operating successfully.

As can be seen from the attached summary of use, a total of \$13,327.25 in revenue to the Town resulted from use of the facilities. The long-term users are the chief source of the revenue, augmented by numerous recitals, receptions, and neighborhood meetings. The Library's facilities continue to be valued as a resource for community use.

An issue that surfaced when making the changeover in responsibilities was that of the use of the downstairs meeting room by Boy Scout Troop 500, who had been using the room without charge. At their August meeting, the Trustees decided that, to be consistent with use by other "non-profit" groups, The Scouts should also pay a fee. The leadership of the Troop disputed this position, and the Trustees, plus Homer Cowles of the Board of Selectmen, met with them to discuss the issue. The Scouts' leaders expressed their position that payment of the fee would be unfeasible for the group and instead proposed that it be substituted for by service to the building. The Trustees subsequently accepted this proposal.

At a meeting in January, the Trustees discussed with Ned Markert his plans for long-hoped-for and much needed repair and maintenance of the building. The Trustees were assured that work would proceed in the summer of 1998, but as yet nothing has been done. The shabby appearance of the outside wall facing the street is of particular concern, not only to the Trustees, but to several members of the community who have critically noted its condition. By means of this report, the Trustees are again urgently requesting the Town to undertake the needed repair and maintenance. As a much used and valued fixture of the community, as well as a source of considerable revenue to the Town, the upkeep of the building is a matter that should be of higher priority than is now the case.

After years of faithful service, Betsy Johnson resigned as Chairman of the Board, and was

replaced by Madge Ertel. Shirley Lauder rejoined the Board. At the end of this fiscal year, Janet Gorth finished her term of service, and Betsy Johnson has agreed to rejoin the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Madge Ertel
Madge Ertel, Chairman of the Board

ANNUAL REPORT - JULY 1, 1997-JUNE 30, 1998
MUNSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY BUILDING

TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME FROM RENTAL = \$13,327.25

LONG TERM RENTALS

MONDAYS:

No regular rentals (Jeff Felberbaum stopped teaching Tai Chi in Feb.)

TUESDAYS:

6:30-8:30 PM - Martial Arts (up) with David Mazor

24 Mt. View Circle 253-7569

6:30-8:30PM - Boy Scouts with Mike Ziogar (down)

733 Station Road 253-7522

WEDNESDAYS

7:30-9:30 PM (first Wednesday only) Circle Dance with

Janet Teng 3 Coach La. 253-3659 or

Patricia Cahill 35 Kendrick Pl. 253-7898

6:30-7:30 PM (down) Mothers' Exercises with Marylynn Orlovski

133 River Road, So. Deerfield 01373 665-4384

THURSDAYS:

No regular rentals

FRIDAYS:

5:30-8 PM Tai Chi with Wolfe Lowenthal 103 State St. 549-4160

SATURDAYS:

First Sat. : 8-10:30 PM English Country Dance with

Van Kaynor 474 Market Hill Rd. 549-1913

Second Sat: 8:30-11:30 PM Contra Dance with

Ron Grosslein 51 Columbia Drive 253-5638

Third Sat.: 8-11 PM English Country Dance with

Joyce Crouch 95 Pulpit Hill Rd. 549-4123

Fourth and Fifth Sat.: 8:30-11:30 PM Contra Dance with

Susan Secco P.O. Box 316, Montague, MA 01351 367-9380

SUNDAYS:

8 AM-12:30 PM Christ Community Chapel with

The Rev. Chris Weigel P.O. Box 777, Amherst 582-7034

Treasurer, Anton DuPlessis 986 S.E. ST. 253-5163

Second Sunday 2-4 PM (down) Amherst Orchid Society with

Roger West 83 Dacey Rd., Conway MA 01341 (413) 625-2513

Once a month or so: Amherst Music Group - recitals with

Lois Smith 4 Bayberry Ln. 256-8675

FREQUENTLY BUT ANY DAY: Leisure Services programs

All activities are upstairs unless otherwise noted

Compiled by:
Barbara N. Taylor
7-6-98

During this past year the OEDP Committee was revitalized by the recruitment of new members to fill vacant positions, as well as a clarification and refinement of the mission of this committee. The OEDPC has a role as one of Amherst's economic development committees. Changes to this Committee have included a name change to the **Overall Economic Development Planning Committee (OEDPC)**. The 1998 OEDPC Charge is as follows:

To facilitate communication and coordination between Town Boards, Committees and citizen groups working on projects related to economic development.

To provide information to the public regarding the potential benefits of economic development activities in Amherst.

To promote economic development opportunities and activities in Amherst that are in keeping with community values and planning goals.

To update and revise the Town's Overall Economic Development Plan (OEDP) in accordance with the requirements of the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The OEDPC has been reviewing ways to increase public awareness of the benefits of economic development for Amherst. There is a need for public education on this issue. The OEDPC committed itself to identifying locally appropriate types of economic development, including in-fill development, downtown and village center development, and sustainable development.

The OEDPC has reviewed the proposed parking garage facility and has endorsed this initiative based on the demonstrated need for additional downtown parking. The OEDPC has supported the use of local real estate tax incentives on specific parcels to attract and retain businesses that offer particular benefits to the community. The OEDPC went on record prior to the Spring Town Meeting to defeat a Petition Article attempting to retract the tax incentive program accepted by Town Meeting the previous years.

The OEDPC completed its Annual Report to the federal Economic Development Administration which is a requirement of the Town's Overall Economic Development Plan. Next year the current 1994 Plan will be five years old and a new revised Plan will be required. Some data for the OEDP has been collected as part of the Annual Report, with other information to be gathered this coming year.

Members:

Kelly Erwin
Robert Green
Renee Moss
Jaymie Chernoff
Terry O'Keefe
Jane Weisner
Fran Van Treese
Eddy Goldberg

PERSONNEL BOARD REPORT

Fiscal Year 1998 marked the departure of two members of the Personnel Board. Member Fran Taylor-Anderson succumbed to her illness on April 6, 1998; Ms. Taylor-Anderson was appointed to the Board in January of 1995. Chairman Timothy Murphy completed his ninth and final year of very dedicated service to the Town as a member of the Personnel Board on June 30th. Many thanks go to Mr. Murphy for both his many years of service and providing his expertise to the Town and its employees.

Under the Personnel Bylaw adopted by Town Meeting in 1995, the Personnel Board recommends changes in compensation, classification, and policies to the Select Board for approval. The following is a summary of the changes which were adopted during FY 98:

A. Reclassification and Reorganization Plan

An internal classification and organization study was conducted by interviewing employees and comparing positions. The study took more than a year to complete. The Personnel Board agreed to hear appeals to the Town Manager's recommendations, but none were presented. The Personnel Board recommended approval and implementation of a new classification and compensation plan in lieu of an "across the board" pay adjustment for FY 98.

B. Part Time Rate Scale

Rates of compensation for part time employees who do not receive benefits had not changed since 1996. Change in the minimum wage, low regional unemployment, and the job market necessitated a new compensation scale, also in lieu of an "across the board" adjustment for FY 98.

C. Inspection Rates for Part Time Inspectors

The rate per inspection was changed from \$15 to \$20 per inspection. This is the first change in this rate since Town Meeting voted to change the rate in 1989.

D. Changes in Benefits and Technical Changes

- A "floating holiday" during November, December, or January was changed to a "personal day" so that employees may request this day off at any time during the year.
- Clarification of shift differential compensation was provided to define which employees are eligible to receive this compensation.
- Language changes were made to the Personnel Procedures Manual to change the terminology of Affirmative Action Officer to Human Rights Director; to make wording changes reflecting the terminology used in the new classification and compensation plan; to define the current amount of mandatory deduction for the retirement system under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32; to reflect the current practice of having more than seven (7) members for the Insurance Advisory Committee; and to reflect the policy of extending health insurance benefits to domestic partners of employees.

**PLANNING BOARD & PLANNING DEPARTMENT
FY 98 ANNUAL REPORT**

INTRODUCTION

While major comprehensive planning efforts continued during the year, including the Town-wide Visioning process and the Atkins Corner Village Center study, the Town also saw an increase in commercial development proposals. Additional assistance was also provided by the Planning Department to the bicycle planning efforts now underway.

Details of the FY 98 work program are provided below.

CURRENT PLANNING

These activities include the review of development proposals that come before the Town, assistance to Town boards and commissions, response to citizen inquiries, administration of the phased growth bylaw, amendments to the Zoning Bylaw and Map and general land use activity.

The following table indicates the application activity for FY 98:

Planning Board Land Use & Zoning	
<u>A. Review & Action</u>	<u># of Applications</u>
1. Form A Subdivisions	12
2. Cluster Subdivisions	1
3. Subdivision Lot Releases	6
4. Special Permit Cluster Subdivisions	1
5. Site Plan Review	12
6. Development Authorizations	0
7. Scenic Road Hearings	1
<u>B. Review & Recommendation</u>	
1. Zoning Amendments	3
2. Special Permits/Variations	46
3. Chapter 61A Withdrawals	3
4. Road Acceptances	5

Unlike most past years, the majority of development proposals were non-residential in nature. A sample of the proposed projects include:

- 417 West Street - new office building
- University Drive - new office building

- College Street - new retail/office/residential building
- College Street - new retail/residential building
- Gatehouse Road - expansion of NES offices
- Atkins Farm Market - expansion of bakery
- Amherst College - conversion of a residential structure to a religious center
- Town of Amherst - soccer fields

The Planning Board and Department also turned their attention to the Phased Growth Bylaw. This innovative growth management technique was originally adopted in 1987. At that time, a ten year sunset clause was included, which was later extended one year. The bylaw was updated and revised. Language was added to encourage development in and near village centers and away from open space and farmland. Parking standards were reviewed to lower the number of parking spaces required, thereby minimizing the amount of pavement. In addition, the ability to share parking and/or lease parking spaces was expanded as another method to minimize the need for more parking.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

As previously noted, most of the attention of the Planning Board and staff was directed at two major planning efforts. Those were the Visioning process and the Atkins Corner Village Center study.

The Planning Board was represented on the Comprehensive Plan Committee. A number of public forums were held, a web page was established and a survey was made available to Amherst citizens. It is intended that the Visioning process will lead to the initiation of a comprehensive plan.

The Atkins Corner project led to the establishment of the Atkins Corner Working Group with representatives of Hampshire College, Atkins Farm Market, citizens, Planning Board and staff members and a representative of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Neighborhood meetings were held, students from the Conway School of Landscape Design were hired to do a preliminary study, traffic counts were taken and preliminary zoning recommendations were developed. Four major aspects of this village center were identified as needing attention: 1) road design, 2) zoning options, 3) development scenarios, 4) Hampshire College request for proposals for development.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Planning staff, working with the OEDP Committee, updated and revised the Overall Economic Development Plan for the Town.

In addition, the Planning staff has provided technical assistance to the Economic Development Industrial Commission as it pursues its goal of broadening the Town's economic base.

The Planning Department wrote a Public Works Economic Development grant to provide water and sewer to the PRP land at the corner of Larkspur Drive and Old Belchertown Road.

The staff has also provided support to the Parking Garage Building Committee as that committee develops plans for the Boltwood Walk parking garage.

STAFF ASSISTANCE

Each year, the Planning Department has been asked to provide staff assistance to more and more Town boards, commissions and committees. Among the many such bodies are the Planning Board and its three subcommittees, the Design Review Board, Redevelopment Authority, Housing Partnership, EDIC, OEDP Committee, Town Commercial Relations Committee, Public Transportation Committee and its Bicycle subcommittee, Historical Commission, Parking Commission, Parking Garage Building Committee, Disability Access Advisory Committee, and Comprehensive Plan Committee.

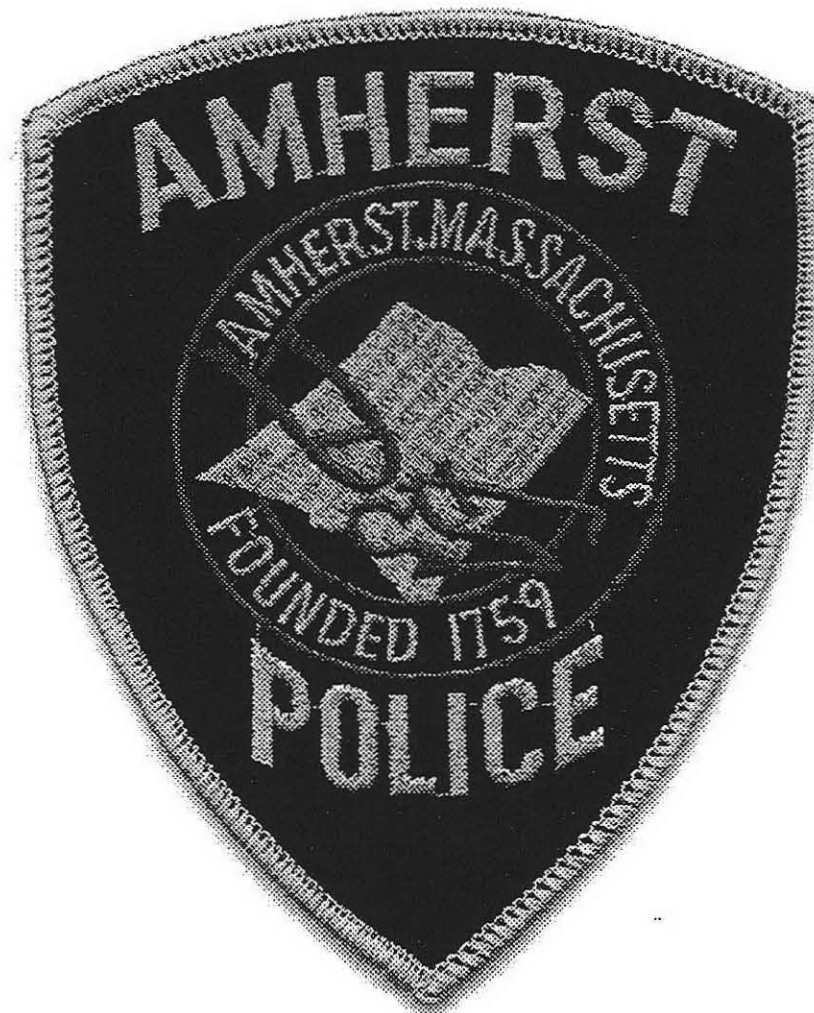
PLANNING BOARD & PLANNING STAFF

Ruth Backes completed her term on the Planning Board at the end of June 1998. Sara Berger was appointed in her place. Members of the Planning Board now include William O'Neil, Chair; Robert Grose, Vice Chair; Frank McNerney, clerk; Ann Forsyth; Fred Hartwell; Sara Berger; Bruce Coldham; Ray Kinoshita; and Eddy Goldberg.

Christine Berry, the Planning Department's intern, left to work in Northern Ireland. She was replaced by Vesna Maneva, a planning student from Macedonia. The remainder of the Planning Department staff are Bob Mitchell, Director, Jonathan Tucker, Senior Planner, Connie Kruger, Community Development Planner, Niels la Cour, Associate Planner, Lynda Faye, ZBA Administrative Assistant and Sue Krzanowski, Management Assistant.

William J. O'Neil
Chair

Robert P. Mitchell, AICP
Planning Director



AMHERST POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 1998



COMMUNITY POLICING IS WORKING!

During the last several years I stated publicly that I was not convinced that Community Policing would work in Amherst. In fact, during budget hearings last year I was only cautiously optimistic. Today, I am comfortable to report that Community Policing is here to stay!

I am proud of the many accomplishments and the total acceptance of the concept of community policing by members of the Amherst Police Department. Lieutenant Jeffrey J. Roy has done an outstanding job implementing programs and involving most of the officers on the Amherst Police Department.

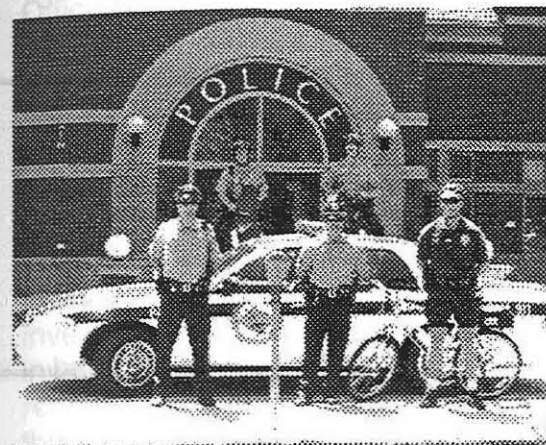
The Bicycle Patrol is a successful addition to our cruiser patrol and also accomplishes our goal to get closer to the people we serve. The mounted patrol is complimented daily by citizens who appreciate seeing officers who are approachable and eager to help. Seniors participate with police in several programs sponsored by dedicated members of the Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) Council. The Citizen Police Academy educates citizens in the intricacies of police work and gives them a working knowledge of how their police department operates. The D.A.R.E. Summer Camp gives Amherst youth a program staffed and taught by police officers and exposes them to special units of various police agencies. The most important step taken this year contributing to the success of our community policing effort is assigning specific officers to neighborhoods so citizens know whom to call when they have a need.

My plan is to continue to get every officer in this department to practice community-policing concepts and become a true partner with citizens in improving the quality of living in Amherst. We will expand our Citizen Police Academy to include classes for high school students and to form a partnership with Amherst schools. With your continued help and support it will work.

I believe that attitudes are changing – those of officers and citizens alike. The change is for the better. Citizens and police dealing with community problems together are certainly a step in the right direction.

Donald N. Maia
Chief of Police

COMMUNITY POLICING



Under the direction of Chief Donald N. Maia, the community policing initiative was expanded on September 1st, with the establishment of the Community Services Bureau (CSB). Lieutenant Jeffrey Roy was reassigned from the Detective Bureau, and Officer Christina Knightly was reassigned from patrol duties to staff the new bureau on a full-time basis. The CSB was charged with the responsibility of spearheading community policing programs with the ultimate goal of incorporating the entire Department in the community-based policing philosophy.

Several changes took place. The first and most visible was the assignment of six officers to specific geographic locations where they could facilitate community meetings, foster relationships with the citizens of those areas, and impact on quality of life issues. Bicycle Officers Todd Lang, Douglas Geary, and Michael Johnson, Foot Officer Sabino Epiceno, and Mounted Unit Officers Gary Guzik and David Rhoades were assigned as community police officers. All Amherst Officers were trained in the concept of community oriented policing and creative problem solving.

A Citizen Police Academy was started in January and another began in March graduating a total of 38 citizens. They were informed by Amherst Police Officers about police issues such as patrol procedures, crime scene search, and criminal law. The classes were held once a week for ten weeks.

Informational meetings were held at the Amherst Regional High School with students on a weekly basis. Students were able to ask officers any question concerning police procedures and criminal law in an effort to try and break down the barriers between teens and the police.

Lieutenant Jeffrey J. Roy
Community Services Bureau

DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION



The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program of the Amherst Police Department continues to thrive within the community. A standard curriculum is presented in each of the elementary schools, the Regional Middle School, and the Regional High School. These classes continue to emphasize the building of sound decision making skills, awareness of peer and media pressure, assertive resistance techniques, and building a positive self-image. The primary officer instructing the program during the past year was Officer James Damouras. Officer Damouras has built many positive relationships with the youth of Amherst, and has provided many new ideas and approaches.

In addition to classroom instruction, the D.A.R.E. officers continue to offer an extended presence within the community. They continue to offer education and informational seminars and talks to various groups and organizations throughout the Town. D.A.R.E. Officers are trying to spend additional time working informally with students in the Middle and High Schools.

The two-week summer camp continues to attract a large number of young participants. For the fourth straight year, Amherst College opened the campus and hosted the camp. This year, the D.A.R.E. Camp offered a fun and educational experience to approximately 120 children. The curriculum was revised to allow a greater emphasis on diversity, conflict resolution, dating violence, tobacco, and substance abuse prevention. Morning classroom sessions were augmented by games, sporting events, field trips, swimming, and specialized presentations.

While D.A.R.E., like many programs of its type, come under constant questioning of its effectiveness, it should be viewed in the following manner. Instructing D.A.R.E. to our young people is like fighting a forest fire with a garden hose. One realizes that the entire fire will never be extinguished. However, if only one, or possibly a few, trees are saved, then the effort put forth is worth the effort.

We thank every individual, business organization, and especially Amherst College for assisting and supporting the program. Without the contribution of the community, the success of the Amherst D.A.R.E. Program, its summer camps, and related activities would not be possible. Thank you for taking an interest in the future of our young people.

Sgt. Christopher G. Pronovost
Sergeant Christopher G. Pronovost
Drug Abuse Resistance Education

DETECTIVE BUREAU

The Amherst Police Department Detective Bureau saw a change in staffing for fiscal year 1998. Chief Donald N. Maia appointed Sergeant Timothy M. Sullivan Officer-In-Charge after Lieutenant Jeffrey J. Roy was reassigned to the newly implemented Community Services Bureau. Officer David R. Knightly, Jr. was reassigned from patrol duties to the Detective Bureau. Detective Jose J. Jeronimo was charged with investigating gangs and illegal narcotic activity within the Town. Detective Jennifer A. Gundersen continued conducting investigations, and Detective A. James Hobart continued in the position of Court Liaison Officer.

The Detective Bureau works closely with patrol officers assisting in the investigation of criminal activity, as well as conducting independent investigations. In addition, the Bureau is responsible for background investigations of potential employees, processing firearm permits, and all court-related functions. During FY 1998, eighty persons were criminally charged through either arrest or summons, with a total of one hundred and thirty-six criminal charges.

Sgt. Timothy M. Sullivan
Sergeant Timothy M. Sullivan
Detective Bureau

COMMUNICATION CENTER

Employees of the *Amherst Public Safety Communications Center* work in partnership with public safety field personnel to protect and serve the citizens.

As the initial contact between the citizen and public safety agencies, we strive to: render courteous, knowledgeable, and efficient service at all times; provide timely and accurate activation of appropriate public safety services; and maintain communication, support, and coordination of a situation until the need is satisfied.

Established as a combined center in August of 1990, we dispatch police, fire, and emergency medical services twenty-four hours a day throughout the year. The Director of Communications oversees a staff of full-time and benefited part time employees assigned to eight-hour shifts. Working with a minimum of two dispatchers on duty at all times, we are equipped with four console positions.

This has been a year of progress for the Communications Center. A reconfiguration of our staffing plan and the successful recruitment and training of

We look forward to planned equipment improvements, the research and development of a Standard Operating Procedures Manual, and increased opportunities for training and involvement in public education.

Rita K. Burke
Director

POLICE OFFICERS

Resigned:
Jose A. Rivera

Appointed:	
Eric G. Twarog	December 1, 1997
Bridget M. Leung	December 1, 1997

COMMUNICATION CENTER PERSONNEL CHANGES

Appointed Full Time:	
Stephen Holton	September 22, 1997
Trudy Turcotte	September 16, 1997

101

February 5, 1998
February 18, 1998

July 17, 1997
March 4, 1998
October 10, 1197

February 9, 1998

April 6, 1998
March 31, 1998

July 1997 – June 1998

ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER	217
ALARM	793
ANIMAL COMPLAINT	540
ANNOYING CALLS	124
ASSAULT	97
ASSIST CITIZEN	76
ASSIST OTHER POLICE DEPARTMENT	205
ASSIST TOWN DEPARTMENT	447
BREAKING AND ENTERING	143
BREAKING AND ENTERING/VEHICLE	97
BOMBING/ARSON	4
CHILD ABUSE	10
CIVIL COMPLAINT	14
DEATH	13
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	14
DISTURBANCE	441
DOMESTIC	63
DRUG VIOLATION	47
ESCORT	444
FALSE REPORT	4
FIGHT	144

FORGERY/COUNTER	6
FRAUD	9
JUVENILE OFFENSE	1
LARCENY	442
LIQUOR CHECK	35
LIQUOR VIOLATION	28
LOCK UP INCIDENT	5
MEDICAL/MENTAL	42
MESSAGE DELIVERY	30
MISSING PERSON	105
MISSING PROPERTY	75
MV ABANDONED	11
MV ACCIDENT WITH PROPERTY DAMAGE	837
MV ACCIDENT WITH INJURY	121
MV RECOVERED	26
MOTOR VEHICLE STOP	106
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	55
MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATION	95
NOISE COMPLAINT	1374
OPERATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	51
POLICE LOG	373
PRISONER TRANSPORT	42
PRIVATE TOW	10
PROTECTIVE CUSTODY	12
RAPE	6
RECOVERED PROPERTY	420
ROBBERY	6
SCHOOL DISTURBANCE	5
SECURITY CHECK	405
SEX OFFENSE	14
SUMMONS DELIVERY	316
SUSPICIOUS ACTS	1506
TOWN BY LAW VIOLATION	116
TRAFFIC	668
VANDALISM	400
WARRANT SERVICE	80
WELL BEING CHECK	107
911	223
TOTAL CALLS OF SERVICE	13,007

PERSONS DETAINED	
ARRESTED OFFENDERS	685
SUMMONSED PERSONS	196
PROTECTIVE CUSTODIES	25
JUVENILE OFFENDERS DETAINED	39
JUVENILE OFFENDERS SUMMONSED	47
JUVENILE PROTECTIVE CUSTODIES	5
ARREST (OTHER DEPARTMENTS)	
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS	102
AMHERST COLLEGE	5
PROTECTIVE CUSTODIES (OTHER DEPARTMENTS)	
MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE	1
AMHERST COLLEGE	1
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS	26
ARREST OFFENSES ADULT	
AFFRAY	3
ARMED ASSAULT INTENT TO MURDER	2
ASSAULT	2
ASSAULT & BATTERY	16
ASSAULT & BATTERY DANGEROUS WEAPON	13
ASSAULT & BATTERY ON POLICE OFFICER	2
ASSAULT WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON	9
ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO MURDER	2
ATTACHING PLATES	2
ATTEMPTED MURDER	1
ATTEMPT TO COMMIT A CRIME	2
BREAKING & ENTERING, DAY FELONY	2
BREAKING & ENTERING, DAY MISDEMEANOR	1
BREAKING & ENTERING, NIGHT FELONY	9
BREAKING & ENTERING, PERSON IN FEAR	1
CONCEAL STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE	1
DEFECTIVE EQUIPMENT	26
DISORDERLY PERSON	61
DISORDERLY PERSON, PEEPING TOM	1
DISTRIBUTION OF CONTROLLED SUB IN SCHOOL ZONE	1
DISTURBING THE PEACE	4
DOMESTIC ASSAULT AND BATTERY	36
FAILURE TO APPEAR AFTER RECOGNITION	1

FAILURE TO DIM HEADLAMPS	1
FAILURE TO DISPLAY HEADLAMPS	5
FAILURE TO GRANT RIGHT OF WAY	1
FAILURE TO KEEP MARKED LANES	30
FAILURE TO KEEP RIGHT LANE	1
FAILURE TO STOP FOR RED LIGHT	11
FAILURE TO STOP FOR STOP SIGN	7
FAILURE TO SUBMIT TO POLICE OFFICER	3
FAILURE TO USE CARE IN STARTING	2
FAILURE TO USE CARE IN STOPPING	3
FAILURE TO USE CARE IN TURNING	1
FAILURE TO USE TURN SIGNAL	2
FAILURE TO YIELD TO PEDESTRIAN	1
FALSIFY AGE TO PURCHASE ALCOHOL	1
HARSH/OBJECTIONABLE NOISE	2
IMPEDED OPERATION	1
IMPROPER DISPLAY OF REGISTRATION	2
IMPROPER RIGHT TURN	2
IMPROPER PASSING	2
IMPROPER PERSON WITH ALCOHOL	130
INDECENT EXPOSURE	1
INTIMIDATION OF WITNESS	1
KIDNAPPING	1
LARCENY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE	2
LARCENY OVER \$250.00	4
LARCENY OVER \$250.00 WITH SINGLENESS INTENT	1
LARCENY UNDER \$250.00	1
LEAVING SCENE OF ACCIDENT WITH DAMAGE	2
LEAVING SCENE OF ACCIDENT, INJURY	1
MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION, MOTOR VEHICLE	1
MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION OVER \$250.00	3
MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION UNDER \$250.00	2
MAYHEM	2
MINOR PURCHASING ALCOHOL	2
NO LICENSE IN POSSESSION	8
NO REGISTRATION IN POSSESSION	4
OBSTRUCT A PASSING VEHICLE	1
OPERATING AFTER REVOCATION OF LICENSE	14
OPERATING AFTER SUSPENSION OF LICENSE	58
OPERATING AFTER REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION	7
OPERATING TO ENDANGER	2
OPERATING UNDER INFLUENCE, ALCOHOL	69
OPERATING UNDER INFLUENCE, ALCOHOL 2 ND TIME	4
OPERATING UNINSURED MOTOR VEHICLE	3
OPERATING UNREGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLE	1
OPERATING WITH IMPROPER EQUIPMENT	1

OPERATING WITHOUT A LICENSE	28
POSSESSION OF ALTERED LICENSE	1
POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION WITHOUT LICENSE	2
POSSESSION OF CLASS B SUBSTANCE	3
POSSESSION OF CLASS D SUBSTANCE	47
POSSESSION OF CLASS E SUBSTANCE	1
POSSESSION OF CLASS B SUB TO DISTRIBUTE	1
POSSESSION OF CLASS C SUB TO DISTRIBUTE	1
POSSESSION OF CLASS D SUB TO DISTRIBUTE	3
POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS WEAPON	1
POSSESSION OF FIREARM WITHOUT LICENSE	1
POSSESSION OF FIREWORKS	3
POSSESSION OF HYPODERMIC INSTRUMENT	1
POSSESS LIQUOR ID OF ANOTHER	1
RAPE	2
RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY OVER \$250.00	2
RESISTING ARREST	14
RIGHT TURN ON RED WHERE PROHIBITED	6
SEATBELT VIOLATION	1
SHOPLIFTING BY ASPORATION	4
SHOPLIFTING BY CONCEALING OVER \$100.00	1
SHOPLIFTING BY CONCEALING UNDER \$100.00	7
SHOPLIFTING BY REPORTING FALSE VALUE	2
SPEED GREATER THAN POSTED LIMIT	16
SPEED GREATER THAN REASONABLE AND PROPER	5
THREAT TO COMMIT A CRIME	2
TRESPASSING	7
UNARMED ROBBERY	1
UNINSPECTED MOTOR VEHICLE	13
UNLAWFUL DISTRIBUTION OF CLASS B SUB	1
USE LIQUOR ID OF ANOTHER	1
VIOLATING LICENSE RESTRICTIONS	1
VIOLATION OF PROTECTIVE ORDER (209A)	8
VIOLATION OF TOWN BY LAW, NOISE	83
VIOLATION OF TOWN BY LAW, OPEN CONTAINER	119
VIOLATION OF TOWN BY LAW, UNLICENSED KEG	23
WANTON DESTRUCTION OVER \$250.00	8
WANTON DESTRUCTION UNDER \$250.00	3
WARRANT CHARGES	124
WRONG WAY ON ONE WAY STREET	1
TOTAL ARREST OFFENSES ADULT	1151

SUMMONSED OFFENSES ADULT

ACCESSORY AFTER FACT	1
ACCESSORY BEFORE FACT	2
ACCOSTING/ANNOYING THE OPPOSITE SEX	1
ANNOYING PHONE CALLS	2
ASSAULT	2
ASSAULT & BATTERY	29
ASSAULT & BATTERY DANGEROUS WEAPON	10
ASSAULT WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON	8
ATTACHING PLATES	1
ATTEMPTED LARCENY OVER \$250.00	1
BREAKING & ENTERING, DAY FELONY	5
BREAKING & ENTERING, NIGHT FELONY	3
BREAKING & ENTERING, NIGHT MISDEMEANOR	2
CONSPIRACY	1
DEFECTIVE EQUIPMENT	1
DISCHARGE FIREARM 500' FROM DWELLING	5
DISORDERLY PERSON	6
DOMESTIC ASSAULT AND BATTERY	10
FAILURE TO KEEP MARKED LANES	6
FAILURE TO SUBMIT TO POLICE OFFICER	2
FAILURE TO USE CARE IN STARTING	1
FALSIFY AGE TO PURCHASE ALCOHOL	1
FORGERY	4
FRAUDULENTLY OBTAIN CREDIT CARD	1
FRAUDULENT USE OF CREDIT CARD	1
ILLEGAL DUMPING	1
IMPROPER PASSING	1
IMPROPER PERSON WITH ALCOHOL	3
INHALING GLUE/TOXIC SUBSTANCE	5
INDECENT ASSAULT & BATTERY, CHILD UNDER 14	4
INDECENT ASSAULT & BATTERY, CHILD OVER 14	2
INTERFERE WITH BUS OPERATOR	1
INTIMIDATION OF WITNESS	2
LARCENY BY CHECK	3
LARCENY FROM A BUILDING	3
LARCENY FROM PERSON	2
LARCENY OF A CREDIT CARD	1
LARCENY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE	2
LARCENY OVER \$250.00	5
LARCENY OVER \$250.00 WITH FALSE PRETENSE	2
LARCENY OVER \$250.00 W/SINGLENES	1

LARCENY UNDER \$250.00	15
LEAVING THE SCENE OF ACCIDENT WITH DAMAGE	1
LEAVING THE SCENE OF ACCIDENT WITH INJURY	1
MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION OVER \$250.00	7
MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION UNDER \$250.00	1
MAYHEM	1
MINOR PURCHASING ALCOHOL	1
MOPED VIOLATIONS	1
OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE	1
OPEN AND GROSS	1
OPERATING AFTER SUSPENSION OF LICENSE	1
OPERATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE, ALCOHOL	5
OPERATING UNINSURED MOTOR VEHICLE	1
OPERATING UNREGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLE	2
OPERATING TO ENDANGER	2
POSSESSION ALTERED LICENSE	1
POSSESS ALTERED LIQUOR ID	1
POSSESSION OF BURGLARIOUS TOOLS	2
POSSESSION OF CLASS A SUBSTANCE	2
POSSESSION OF CLASS B SUBSTANCE	5
POSSESSION OF CLASS B SUB TO DISTRIBUTE	6
POSSESSION OF CLASS D SUBSTANCE	26
POSSESSION OF CLASS D SUB TO DISTRIBUTE	5
POSSESSION OF CLASS E SUBSTANCE	1
POSSESSION OF FIREARM WITHOUT LICENSE	4
POSSESSION OF HYPODERMIC INSTRUMENT	2
RAPE OF A CHILD WITH FORCE	1
RECEIVE STOLEN CREDIT CARD	2
RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY OVER \$250.00	13
RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY UNDER \$250.00	7
SEATBELT VIOLATION	2
SHOPLIFTING BY REPORTING FALSE VALUE	1
SHOPLIFTING BY CONCEALING	2
SPEED GREATER THAN POSTED LIMIT	1
SPEED GREATER THAN REASONABLE AND PROPER	1
THREAT TO COMMIT A CRIME	4
THROW OBJECT ON A PUBLIC WAY	1
TRANSPORT ALCOHOL OVER LEGAL LIMIT	1
TRESPASSING	2
UNINSPECTED MOTOR VEHICLE	1
USE LIQUOR ID/LICENSE OF ANOTHER	2
UTTERING FORGED INSTRUMENT	5
VIOLATION OF DOMESTIC ORDER	2
VIOLATION OF PROTECTIVE ORDER (209A)	7
VIOLATION OF TOWN BY LAW, NOISE	10
VIOLATION OF TOWN BY LAW, OPEN CONTAINER	1

VIOLATION OF TOWN BY LAW, UNLICENSED KEG	3
WANTON DESTRUCTION OVER \$250.00	2
WANTON DESTRUCTION UNDER \$250.00	7

TOTAL SUMMONSED OFFENSES ADULT	318
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ARREST OFFENSES JUVENILE

ARMED ASSAULT IN A DWELLING	1
ARMED ROBBERY	1
ASSAULT & BATTERY	1
ASSAULT & BATTERY, DANGEROUS WEAPON	2
ASSAULT WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON	2
ATTEMPT TO COMMIT A CRIME	1
BREAKING & ENTERING, NIGHT FELONY	1
BREAKING & ENTERING, PERSON IN FEAR	1
CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES WARRANT	8
DEFECTIVE EQUIPMENT	1
DISORDERLY PERSON	2
DOMESTIC ASSAULT & BATTERY	4
FAILURE TO KEEP MARKED LANES	1
FAILURE TO SUBMIT TO A POLICE OFFICER	1
LARCENY OF PROPERTY OVER \$250.00	1
LARCENY OF PROPERTY UNDER \$250.00	1
MINOR TRANSPORTING ALCOHOL	4
OPERATING MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT A LICENSE	2
POSSESSION OF A CLASS D SUBSTANCE	3
POSSESSION OF CLASS D SUB TO DISTRIBUTE	1
RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY OVER \$250.00	1
RESISTING ARREST	1
SHOPLIFTING BY CONCEALING UNDER \$100	1
SHOPLIFTING BY REPORTING FALSE VALUE	2
UNARMED ROBBERY	1
WANTON DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY	1
WARRANT ARRESTS	9

TOTAL ARREST OFFENSES JUVENILE	55
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SUMMONSED OFFENSES JUVENILE

ASSAULT	1
ASSAULT & BATTERY	18
ASSAULT & BATTERY DANGEROUS WEAPON	6
ASSAULT WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON	3

INDECENT A&B PERSON OVER 14	1
INTIMIDATION OF WITNESS	3
LARCENY FROM A BUILDING	3
LARCENY FROM A PERSON	4
LARCENY OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS	1
LARCENY OF PROPERTY OVER \$250.00	3
MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION OF PROP. OVER \$250	3
OPERATING MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT LICENSE	1
POSSESSION OF CLASS D SUBSTANCE	3
POSSESSION OF CLASS D SUB TO DISTRIBUTE	1
RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY OVER \$250.00	1
RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY UNDER \$250.00	2
SHOPLIFTING BY ASPORATION	3
SHOPLIFTING BY CONCEALING UNDER \$100	3
SHOPLIFTING BY PRICE TAMERING	1
UNLAWFULLY DISTRIBUTE CLASS B SUB	1
USE OF MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT AUTHORITY	1
WANTON DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY	3
WILLFUL DEFACING OF MONUMENT	1

TOTAL SUMMONSED OFFENSES JUVENILES	67
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ACCIDENTS

ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATED	640
REPORTED BY MAIL	324
CITATIONS ISSUED	351
ACCIDENTS WITH PERSONAL INJURY	163
NUMBER INJURED	220
FATALITIES	1
PEDESTRAIN ACCIDENTS	11
BICYCLE ACCIDENTS	10

CITATIONS

DISREGARD TRAFFIC CONTROL	1
FAULTY EQUIPMENT	274
FAILURE TO GRANT RIGHT OF WAY	17
FAILURE TO SIGNAL	1
FAILURE TO USE CARE (TOWN BY LAW)	128
IMPROPER PASSING	24
INSPECTION STICKER	209

LEAVING THE SCENE OF ACCIDENT	21
NO LICENSE/REGISTRATION IN POSSESSION	106
OPERATING AFTER SUSPENSION/REVOCATION	127
OPERATING TO ENDANGER	9
OPERATING UNDER INFLUENCE, ALCOHOL/DRUGS	74
OPERATING WITHOUT LICENSE	80
OTHER MOVING VIOLATION	174
OTHER NON-MOVING VIOLATION	19
RIGHT ON RED WHERE PROHIBITED	49
SEATBELT VIOLATION	36
SPEEDING	372
STOP SIGN/RED LENS	280
UNREGISTERED/UNINSURED	67
VIOLATION OF COMMONWEALTH OF MA REGS	8
WARNING	2633
TOTAL CITATIONS	4738

AMHERST PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

Report of Activities for Fiscal 1998

BUDGET:

Discussions with the Amherst Cultural Council about past funding continued with the following satisfactory conclusion. The backlog of funds available to APAC was \$8,572, including the FY 97 grant. APAC was also given the privilege of accumulating funds up to \$12,000 over a five year period, subject to its requesting such carry-overs in the course of its annual request to the Council.

For FY 98 the Council awarded an additional \$2,000 for a combination of Visiting and Permanent Art. Expenditures this year have been primarily for Stecchini's Pawtucket Chimes.

Because there is still no clear understanding that APAC can have its own formal accounting with the Town, it was decided to designate a treasurer for APAC in order to keep a more precise accounting than had been possible in the past. Dick Bentley was elected to that new position in February.

VISITING ART:

The second Visiting Art solicitation produced several proposals. After a first jurying, a public display for comment, and a final jurying, two pieces were selected: Pawtucket Chimes by Brendan Stecchini, and a group of benches and pools by Evelyn Pye. The latter was considered too fragile for winter exposure, but suitable for summer display. Following subsequent Select Board approval as to site, it was installed in Sweetser Park on June 12 for a two-month exhibition.

Pawtucket Chimes was installed outside the Police Station in October, and was vandalized within a few days, by over-stretching of one of the suspension springs. The artist repaired the damage and in December re-installed the piece behind the Bangs Center and it has been safe there.

A new solicitation for Visiting Art was sent out in May with an increased honorarium of \$1,500 and a closing date for applications of June 30.

PERMANENT ART:

Poetic Dialogue was vandalized in May by removal of the Frost silhouette. Public Works discovered it nearby about a week later and re-installed it.

It had been agreed last year that the current \$2,000 range was inadequate to purchase an outstanding piece, and that we should accumulate funds over several years to a range of \$6,000 to \$10,000. In view of the funding uncertainty prevailing through most of the year it was decided not to consider a solicitation until fall of 1998.

Submitted by Richard O'Brien, Chair.

Annual Report Amherst Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee Fiscal Year 1998

Charge: The Committee advises the Select Board and Town Meeting on policy concerning public transportation and bicycle issues. Its explicit purposes include:

1. reviewing all proposals concerning public transportation safety.
2. advising the Select Board and the town's representative to the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority.
3. reporting to town meeting on any article that concerns public transportation.
4. conducting specific studies concerning public transportation.
5. fostering public awareness of the rules for safe cycling.
6. reviewing town bylaws and other laws that affect cycling and making recommendations regarding these laws and their enforcement.
7. recommending the designation and development of commuter and recreational routes and parking facilities for cycling within the town.
8. reviewing plans for the subdivisions or development of land, and the construction or reconstruction of sidewalks, roads, and intersections within the town.

The Committee is working towards a substantive change in the transportation patterns in Amherst. Our goal is to reduce the reliance on the automobile and increase the use of public transportation and cycling. The following paragraph was part of the vision statement we submitted to the Comprehensive Plan Committee. It explains why we feel so strongly about promoting alternative modes of transportation.

The great virtues of the private car are convenience and insulation from the ravages of inclement weather. Those benefits come at a cost. Cars pollute, not only as they are operated, but also when they are manufactured, when they are parked, and when they are junked. The greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, is a necessary by-product of the combustion of gasoline. The perils of global warming are well known, though few people make the connection with their personal driving habits. Open space is covered with pavement for highways and mall parking lots. Time is wasted sitting in traffic jams. Automobile accidents are a leading cause of death and injury. The rise of the automobile has been coupled with the deterioration of public transportation, much to the detriment of those who choose not to drive, who are unable or who cannot afford to operate a car. Planning is dominated by the desire to accommodate the needs of the automobile. As new facilities are built, more cars appear, and the demand for wider and faster roads continues to increase. Neighborhoods cease to exist as isolated residents emerge from their houses only to drive away in their cars. It is also important to remember that cheap fossil fuels will not last forever.

Currently there is not much the Committee can do to improve the no-fare bus service provided by UMass Transit. Amherst has an outstanding transit system for a community its size. Although the buses carry over 2,000,000 passengers a year, most users are students. Local residents are wedded to their cars, even when the buses pass by their doors. The Committee has tried various promotion schemes to increase use. With

PVTA's help we reprinted our map that shows all bus routes in the Amherst area. These maps and a PVTA brochure aimed at local residents were included in the Welcome Newcomers package for new residents. A letter was sent to over 75 local merchants asking them to encourage their customers and employees to use the bus system. For years we have been pressuring Kaiser Permanente and the developer who owns the access road to the medical facility to get together and provide a bus stop at the Kaiser building on Route 9. It seems that the Committee's effort has paid off. We expect that stop to be in operation within a year.

Although Amherst has good public transit, its facilities for cyclists are sadly lacking. As a result, there is more opportunity for the Committee to take the initiative and actually see results. The Amherst - UMass Bikeway Connector started with the Committee. In the last round of funding for transportation enhancement projects, the Connector was the only one to be fully funded. At our urging the Town arranged for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to do a detailed study of all the major roads and rate them as to their suitability for cycling. This report will form the basis for the planning and construction of bike lanes and bike paths. The first bike lanes in town are along the part of South Pleasant Street that extends from the Norwottuck Rail Trail to Main Street. We had extensive meetings with the Public Works Department and consulting engineers about the design of bike lanes through the Main Street/Amity Street intersection. When the lines for parking spaces were repainted, they were narrowed to seven feet in order to make more room for cyclists. The Committee has begun to consider creation of off-road bike paths in certain neighborhoods.

Our goal is not so much to make life easier for those who currently use a bicycle as a means of transportation, but rather to create facilities that will attract new riders. For at least eight months a year, cycling provides a convenient, environmentally friendly, and physically rewarding means of transportation. The Bikes on Buses program has successfully combined public transit and cycling. Bike lanes will attract riders. We have considered whether reducing speed limits on town roads would be an effective means of luring people out of their cars. The Committee has taken the lead in urging the Amherst Police Department to actively enforce traffic laws for cyclists. Although these laws have been on the books for years, they have been ignored both by cyclists and enforcement officials. The majority of the Committee feels that cyclists have a legitimate claim for space on the roadways, and in return cyclists need to ride safely and responsibly.

A sub-committee met with the Town Manager to explore the possibility of special events that would promote alternatives to the car. One possibility would be to close part of the downtown to cars for a day, an afternoon, or an evening. Entertainers, food vendors, pedestrians, cyclists, and buses would rule the streets. What seems like a good idea has problems with the details. Conversations continue. However, the Committee did support Give Your Car a Break Day in conjunction with Earth Day. Several members were active in the planning.

Our vision of a future Amherst with reduced reliance on the automobile led us to take a controversial stand at the Fall 1997 Town Meeting against creating economic opportunity areas in outlying parts of town. Such facilities are accessible only by car and are accompanied by large parking areas covered by asphalt. We debated the parking garage at great length. Our instincts were to oppose a facility that so obviously catered to the car. In the end a majority of the Committee reluctantly supported the construction of

a garage, primarily to maintain the vitality of the downtown. We did discuss the effect that a garage would have on public transit and on bicycle use. We urged the building committee to make sure that bike lanes and bicycle access to public buildings are not adversely affected.

The Committee was disappointed that the consultants to the visioning process did not provide an adequate opportunity for the discussion of transportation issues. However, it was clear that many residents of Amherst support an expanded role for alternatives to the automobile. The Committee held its own visioning exercise. We reviewed public transportation, both local and regional, paratransit, cycling, and pedestrian facilities. Ultimately we came up with a list of 35 action items that were revised and condensed. A report was submitted to the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Although pedestrian issues are not part of the Committee's charge, several members observed that over short distances walking is a very effective mode of transportation. Currently there is no single body in town with responsibility for pedestrian issues. The Committee has already debated the virtues of various types of crosswalks. In the future we will make recommendations about pedestrian facilities as the opportunity arises.

The future also promises two major construction projects that will seriously inconvenience motorists in Amherst – the parking garage and the Coolidge Bridge. We see these disruptions as an opportunity to encourage people to try alternatives. Maybe some habits will be changed permanently.

The Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee met thirteen times between July 1, 1997 and June 30, 1998. Each meeting lasted at least an hour and a half. The discussions were lively and sometimes contentious. We benefited from the regular participation of representatives from the Planning Department and UMass Transit. Other town officials attended on occasion. Committee members did more than just attend meetings. Many issues required extensive follow up. Most of us are activists with a common view of what Amherst might become, and we expect to continue our proactive approach to the issues.

Committee Membership

David Ahlfeld
Lorna Peterson
Arthur Swift

Marianne Jakus
Nathan Salwen
Elizabeth Trahan

Robert Kusner
Margie Springer-Young
Merrylees Turner

Town of

AMHERST Massachusetts

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Department of Public Works

Besides providing the basic services in highway and sidewalk maintenance, snow plowing operations, water distribution and treatment, solid waste disposal and recycling, maintenance of our cemeteries, parks and roadside trees, the Department and its staff had quite an eventful year.

The reconstruction of approximately 7,800 feet of Flat Hills Road was completed by Public Works personnel and private contractors. Approximately 6.3 miles of highways were resurfaced, primarily in residential areas, a program we hope to continue.

The Public Works Committee continues to review various highway improvement projects under the Transportation Improvement Program (T.I.P.) from their initial conceptual phase to final design, holding the necessary public hearings and informational meetings. Two major projects currently being considered and supported by the Public Works Committee are the improvements to the intersection of Main Street, Amity Street, North Pleasant and South Pleasant Streets, and the intersection of College Street, Northampton Road and South Pleasant Street. The design of the first project is approximately 75% complete and the second 25% complete. Progress in completing these projects has been slower than anticipated in an effort to satisfy the concerns and recommendations of the various Town boards and committees. Construction of these projects is expected to begin in the year 1999 and 2000 respectively.

The 1998 Annual Town Meeting authorized the funding for the installation of traffic signals and improvements to the intersection of Belchertown Road (Route 9), Gatehouse Road and Old Farms Road. This project is anticipated to be constructed in 2001 or sooner, depending on the review process and the availability of funding under the T.I.P. program.

In addition to the Town's participation in the T.I.P. program, the Massachusetts Highway Department also participate's in this program on our behalf. In the fall of 1997, the Massachusetts Highway Department awarded a contract to Warner Bros., Inc. of Sunderland, Massachusetts, in the amount of \$534,000.00 to reconstruct and widen the intersection of Shays Street and West Street (Route 116), Install traffic lights and improve the intersection of East Hadley Road and South Pleasant Street (Route 116) and to resurface and improve approximately 1.55 miles of West Street and South Pleasant Street from Shays Street to Route 9. Unfortunately, due to funding problems and unanticipated problems with existing underground telephone cables, the project could not proceed until late spring of 1998. These projects are expected to be completed in the fall of 1998.

The Director of Water Resources, Mr. Robert Pariseau, has detailed, in a report to follow, the activities at the wastewater treatment plant and on the water treatment and distribution systems. The major activities in the Water Division were improvements to the Hills Reservoir access road, the preparation of bidding documents for improvements to the Intake Reservoir and the search for a location of a new water storage tank. At the wastewater treatment plant the main focus was the replacement of various pieces of 20-year old equipment and the installation of an emergency generator at our Blackberry Lane pumping station.

Angie Fowler, our Solid Waste/Recycling Coordinator, has detailed, in a report to follow, the activities and the various programs which are administered by the Solid Waste Division. The highlights of the various activities were the implementation of a fluorescent bulb recycling program, development of a Buy Recycled Policy" and the completion of a report by the Solid Waste Committee on the need for a transfer station in Amherst when the landfill closes in the year 2002.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the staff at the Department of Public Works and to the various boards, committees and department heads, for their direction, cooperation and assistance in matters of mutual interest during the past year.

Noel J. Ryan
Superintendent of Public Works

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Flow Data

The Wastewater Treatment Plant treated 1.6 billion gallons of wastewater in FY 98.

	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
Inches of Rainfall	56.22	41.74	44.98
Average Daily Flow in Million Gallons	4.95	4.94	4.41
Highest Day in Million Gallons	14.17 (4/16/96)	9.33 (12/2/96)	18.0 (6/16/98)

Chemicals Used

Chlorine (lbs)	13,846	16,395	12,790
Polymer (lbs)	6,847	3,819	3,138
Potassium Permanganate (lbs)			2,600

Chlorine is used to disinfect the wastewater prior to discharge into the Connecticut River. Polymer is used to thicken sludge as part of the disposal process. Potassium permanganate is used for odor control.

Treatment Efficiency

The water that is to be discharged into the Connecticut River is tested in our treatment plant laboratory. We perform many process control tests to optimize our treatment and produce the best quality effluent possible. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) monitor our activities and measure our effectiveness by the parameters listed below.

	EPA LIMIT	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
Biological Oxygen Demand	30 mg/l	8.2 mg/l	7.9 mg/l	11.4 mg/l
Suspended Solids	30 mg/l	5.0 mg/l	4.7 mg/l	5.3 mg/l

Septage Received

The treatment plant receives septage from residential septic tanks pumped from the towns of Amherst, Pelham and Shutesbury. Below is a summary of the number of truckloads received.

	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
Amherst	145	131	169
Pelham	45	38	57
Shutesbury	31	28	54
Total	221	197	280

Biosolids Data

Biosolids are the residuals left after the wastewater is treated. We currently thicken these solids on-site, and Waste Stream Environmental Inc. is under contract to deliver them to an EPA approved sludge incinerator. Sludge in FY 98 went to three incineration facilities: Fitchburg, Millbury and Cromwell, CT.

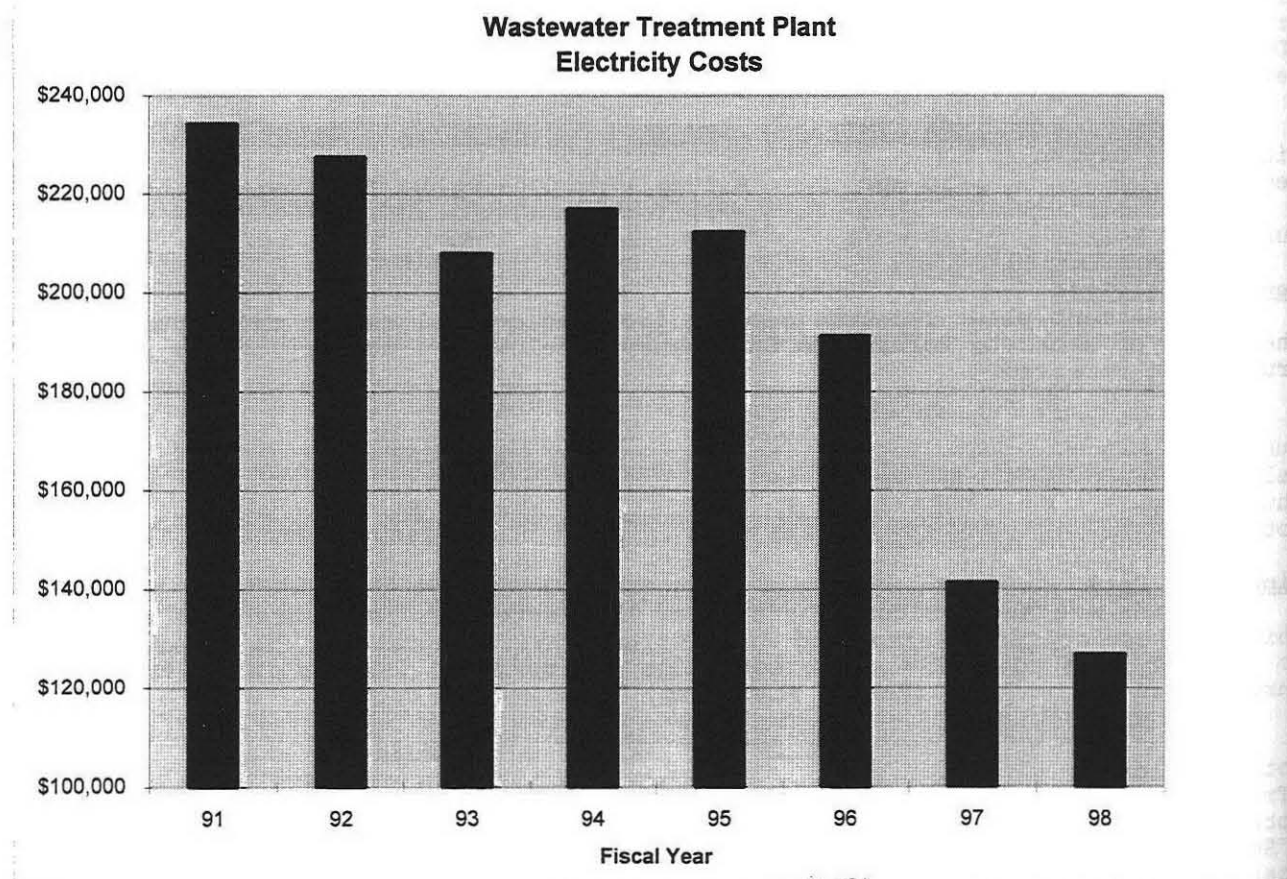
	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
Total Gallons (Transported)	5,011,500	4,187,100	4,162,010
Total Dry Tons	1,123	1,104	1,062
% Solids	5.6%	6.3%	6.12%
Cost	\$429,765	\$380,583	\$405,194

Power Consumption

The treatment plant uses a considerable amount of electricity to pump and treat the wastewater.

	FY 96	FY 97	FY 97
Avg. KWH/month	139,562	136,035	128,100
Avg. KW Demand	278	269	247

As shown in the graph below electricity costs continue going down due to wise energy management and equipment replacement. The plant is now 20 years old and we are replacing outdated equipment with new energy efficient models. This phased-in capital improvement program has been funded by grants and town appropriations and has kept the facilities in excellent condition with minimal impact on the sewer rate.



Other Activities

Radio Telemetry Alarm System: Plant staff began to install a radio signal-based alarm system to notify personnel if problems exist at the Treatment Plant or any of the 15 pumping stations. Use of radio signal will replace the existing phone line system and result in savings in the number of leased phone lines.

Stationary Generator at Blackberry Lane: Treatment plant staff installed an emergency generator at the Blackberry Lane pumping station to run the pumps when normal power is interrupted.

Pump Replacement Project: Camp Dresser and McKee, our wastewater consultant, prepared bid documents for replacement of several pumps at the treatment plant. NU Water Inc. of Attleboro, Massachusetts will be completing the work in FY 99.

Polymer Chemical Feed System: Treatment plant staff installed a new polymer feed system to supply the Gravity Belt Thickener.

Diffused Aeration System: Camp Dresser and McKee was retained to investigate conversion of our mechanical aeration system to diffused air. This is a more efficient and cost effective means of supplying oxygen to our treatment process.

Replacement Comminutor: A replacement comminutor was bid, purchased and will be installed FY 99.

Oil Tank Replacements: Underground oil storage tanks were removed at: Stanley Street, West Street, Chlorine Building and the Old Administration Building to comply with state regulations.

Robert E. Pariseau
Director of Water Resources

TREE DIVISION

The Tree Division removed a total of 98 street trees during the past year. Trees removed were: 17 oak, 2 flowering crab, 10 cherry, 5 locust, 6 linden and 4 white pine.

During FY 98, 44 trees were planted.

36 tree stumps were removed in FY 98.

PARKS DIVISION

The Parks Division of three full-time employees and four part-time summer staff continue the day-to-day maintenance of our parks and commons, together with the maintenance of twenty-two softball, baseball, football, lacrosse and soccer fields and many multi-purpose areas.

As I mentioned in previous reports, continued heavy use of all our fields and facilities requires increased maintenance, due to continued wear and tear, and major renovations will undoubtedly be required at some of our facilities in the very near future.

In addition to the day-to-day maintenance, the Parks Division, with the assistance of the Highway Division, performed the "site work" to permit Leisure Services to install new playground equipment at Groff Park. Renovation of the playing field at Groff Park, Fort River and Plumb Brook were also performed by the Parks Division.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

The personnel of the Highway Division completed the following projects during FY 98:

RESURFACING - TYPE I - BITUMINOUS CONCRETE:

NAME	FROM	TO	DISTANCE (feet)
Boltwood Avenue	Main Street	Route 9	1,060
Wildflower Drive	Station Road	Trillium Way	2,110
Coach Lane	Pomeroy Lane	End	530
Surrey Lane	Carriage Road	End	530
Carriage Lane	Pomeroy Lane	End	1,580
Harvard Avenue	North Whitney	Canton Avenue	530
Canton Avenue	Grove Street	End	530
Grove Street	Canton Avenue	North Whitney	400
Smith Street	Kellogg Avenue	Triangle Street	530
Hazel Avenue	Route 9	End	750
Pomeroy Lane	Middle Street	Route 116	3,700
Spring Street	Boltwood Walk	Dickinson Street	1,580
Main Street	South Pleasant St	Churchill Street	530
Seelye Street	Main Street	Route 9	1,060
Chestnut St/High	East Pleasant St	Main Street	5,280
Kellogg Avenue	North Pleasant St	Triangle Street	1,580
Blue Hills Road	Route 9	Amity Street	2,110
Hills Road	Strong Street	Redgate Lane	1,060
McClellan Street	Old N. Pleasant St	Lincoln Avenue	1,580
Redgate Lane	Strong Street	North Whitney St	2,110
Summer Street	Route 63	To Culvert	500
Stanley Street	Route 9	South East Street	3,700
			33,340
			or 6.3 miles

SIDEWALK - RESURFACING (Bit. Concrete)

NAME	DISTANCE (feet)
Longmeadow Drive	1,875
South East Street	400
High Street	1,600
North Whitney Street	580
Pine Street & Henry St	750
	5,205

MAJOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION - (FLAT HILLS ROAD)

Work was continued on the reconstruction of approximately 7,800 feet of Flat Hills Road and the intersection of Henry Street and Shutesbury Road. Due to extensive storm drainage and subdrainage needed, together with the poor soils in the area (clay, rock and boulders) and a "no blasting" restriction, this project will not be completed until the summer of 1998. To date the following of work has been performed.

Drainage Materials Used:

Pipe Size & Length	Number of Drainage Structures
6" - 320 feet	49
12" - 4,510 feet	Includes catch basins, manholes and headwalls
15" - 1,000 feet	
18" - 60 feet	
36" - 150 feet	

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (T.I.P.)

The Town of Amherst has for the past three years, participated in this program, financed by both federal and state highway funds. Local funds are used to finance the engineering and design components with the construction costs borne by both federal and state funds.

To date one project has been completed under this program, as follows:

Reconstruction of College Street (Route 9) and South East Street intersection, including widening and the addition of left turn lanes, upgrading traffic lights, and the pedestrian crossings to meet the requirements of the American Disabilities Act (A.D.A.).

Projects currently under design for construction in FY 99 and FY 2000 & 2001 are as follows:

- 1.Reconstruction of the intersection of Main Street, Amity Street, North Pleasant Street and South Pleasant Street
- 2.Reconstruction of the intersection of South Pleasant, College Street and Northampton Road
- 3.Reconstruction of the intersection of Route 9 (Belchertown Road), Gatehouse Road and Old Farms Road

Projects scheduled for construction in FY 98 by the Massachusetts Highway Department, at the request of the Town under the T.I.P. program are as follows:

- 1.Installation of traffic signals at the intersection of East Hadley Road and Route 116
- 2.Realignment and reconstruction of the intersection of Shays Street and Route 116

SANITARY SEWER DIVISION

SEWER MAIN RECONSTRUCTION - KENDRICK PLACE

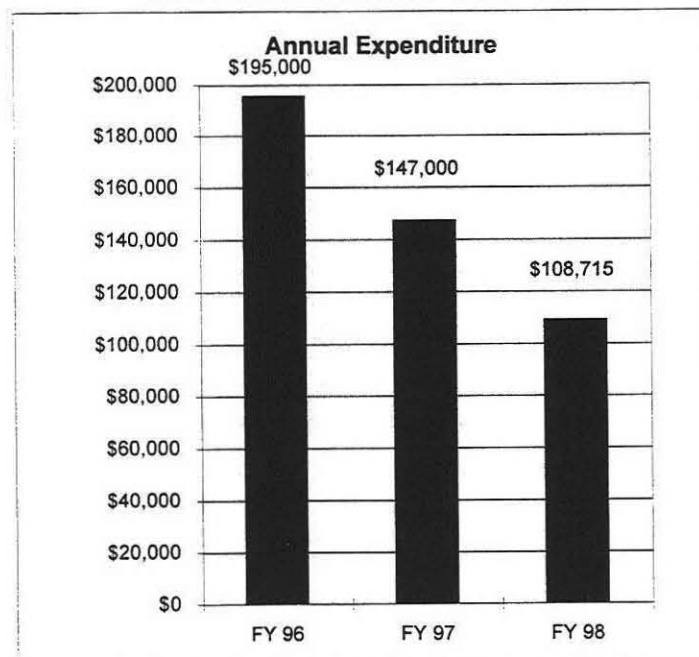
Reconstructed approximately 300 feet of problematic 8" vitrified clay (V.C.) sewer line with 8 P.V.C. sewer pipe on Kendrick Place.

SEWER MAINTENANCE

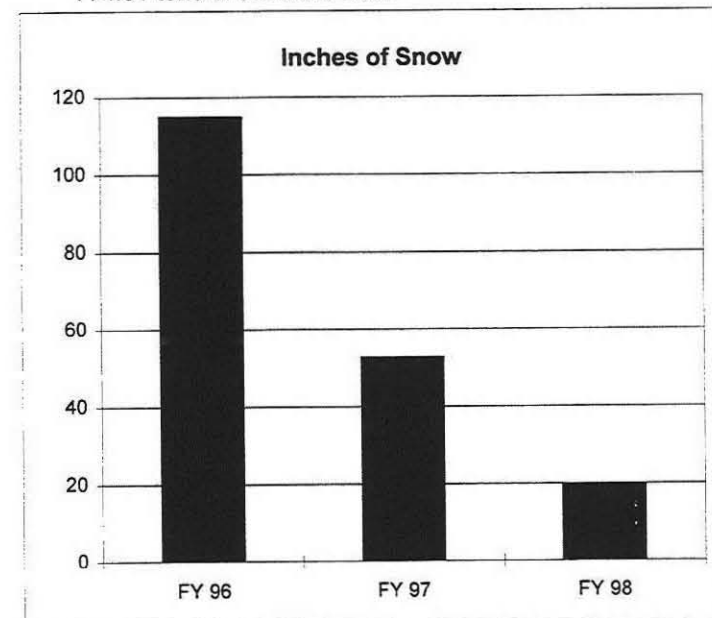
Investigated 160 sanitary sewer complaints and corrected 18 stoppages in the collection system. Approximately 12 miles of sewer mains were cleaned and flushed. Problematic sewer locations are flushed and cleaned on a quarterly basis.

The acquisition of a new flusher vacuum sewer cleaning machine has permitted the Department to institute a sanitary sewer cleaning program, system-wide. Rather than flush the sewer lines as we have been doing in the past, this machine will permit us to remove some of the obstructions which have been problematic, i.e. roots, grease and debris.

Snow and Ice Removal



There were 29 snow and ice storms, with a total of 19.5" of snow
 2710.55 tons of sand were used
 774.61 tons of salt were used



Year	Cost (x \$1,000)	Snow (inches)	No. of Storms
FY 96	\$195,000	114.7	30
FY 97	\$147,000	52.4	27
FY 98	\$108,715	19.5	29*

*Includes 14 sleet & ice storms requiring townwide sanding operations

WATER TREATMENT & DISTRIBUTION

Water Consumption: The average daily water consumption for FY 98 was 3.60 million gallons; the peak day August 31, 1997 was at 4.57 million gallons.

The figures below summarize the amount of water pumped, the revenue generated and the chemicals used to treat the water. Chlorine and ammonia are used for disinfection, potassium permanganate is used for iron and manganese removal at Well #4, polymer is used for water treatment at the Atkins and Centennial water treatment plants, fluoride is added to reduce tooth decay, and sodium hydroxide is used to elevate the pH of the water for corrosion control.

Water Services

	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
New services installed	38	47	37
Total water services	5,905	6,038	6,075
# Meters Replaced		250	420

Chemical Usage - All Sites

	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
Chlorine (lbs)	24,160	24,435	24,932
Sodium Hydroxide (Gals)	20,419	21,696	20,521
Polymer (gals)	2,231	2,942	3,082
Potassium Permanganate (lbs)		660	0
Ammonia (lbs)	4,246	4,610	5,066
Sodium Fluoride (lbs)	25,145	23,780	24,715

Monthly Pumping in Million Gallons

Month	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
July	128.126	117.390	117.023
August	129.106	120.565	108.709
September	143.938	133.135	126.060
October	134.245	131.705	119.094
November	115.879	119.934	105.794
December	111.053	112.423	99.838
January	99.812	105.232	92.718
February	113.869	115.803	102.467
March	113.026	115.011	106.950
April	121.740	117.270	112.097
May	127.980	115.743	120.963
June	110.466	110.912	102.780
TOTAL	1,449.240	1,415.123	1,314.493
Daily Average	3.97	3.89	3.60
Maximum Daily	5.43 (9/7/95)	5.74 (9/5/96)	4.57 (8/31/97)
Minimum Daily	2.75 (1/25/96)	2.61 (12/26/96)	2.34 (11/29/97)

WATER PUMPED - MILLION GALLONS

SOURCE	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
Wells #1 & #2	187	182	160
Well #3	334	338	368
Well #4	172	65	0
Well #5	11	24	26
Pelham Reservoirs	354	399	372
Atkins Reservoir	391	407	388
Total Water Pumped	1,449	1,415	1,314
Ave Day (millions)	3.97	3.88	3.60

WATER CONSUMED - CUBIC FEET

	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
UMass	59,775,800	72,039,770	69,496,300
Amherst College	7,077,000	*6,472,550	* 6,218,617
Hampshire College	2,605,200	2,402,900	2,663,800
Town	68,307,900	81,990,808	83,287,566
Municipal	1,774,300	2,037,700	1,069,100
Special Water Readings	0	1,767,500	1,821,200
Other	70,200	238,900	1,007,400
Total Metered ft3	139,610,400	166,950,128	165,563,983
Total Metered - Million Gal	1,044	1,249	1,238
%Unaccounted	28	11.7	5.8

TOTAL REVENUE - DOLLARS

	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
UMass	Water \$ 767,398	\$1,063,616	\$1,143,736
	Sewer \$ 881,561	\$1,068,153	\$1,035,893
Amherst College	Water \$ 92,151	*\$ 96,672	*\$ 105,237
	Sewer \$ 106,214	*\$ 97,117	*\$ 93,318
Hampshire College	Water \$ 34,240	\$ 35,210	\$ 45,800
	Sewer \$ 39,087	\$ 36,051	\$ 39,973
Town	Water \$ 971,664	\$1,115,219	\$1,310,822
	Sewer \$1,119,600	\$1,058,235	\$1,085,195
Municipal	Water \$ 19,773	\$ 23,632	\$ 19,491
	Sewer \$ 21,051	\$ 20,782	\$ 15,712
Special Readings Water & Sewer	0	\$ 51,020	\$ 52,787
Other	Water & Sewer \$ 3,484	\$ 7,153	\$ 9,517
Total Revenue (Dollars)	\$4,056,223	\$4,672,860	\$4,957,481

*Adjusted Readings

WATER QUALITY DATA:

Chemical Analysis: Chemical analyses for all water sources were below EPA limits.

Biological Analysis: Six hundred samples were taken in FY 98 for coliform bacteria; no positive results occurred.

Cross Connection Program: The cross connection program was established in 1989 under Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulation 310 CMR 22.22. All college and commercial buildings were inspected for water connections that could cause contamination of the public water system if backflow or siphonage occurred. These devices are tested semi-annually by Water Department staff. Below is a summary of the devices presently in service.

	FY97	FY98
Town	50	47
UMass	317	325
Amherst College	49	61
Hampshire College	18	22
Commercial	47	55
TOTAL	481	510

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Intake Reservoir Repairs: Tighe & Bond assisted the Town in bidding the dredging and repairs to the intake reservoir in Pelham. All sediment will be removed, the dam will be pointed and a new drain gate will be installed. The screenhouse will get new guides, screens, walkways and a new roof. The job was awarded to Warner Bros. Contractors and will be done in FY 99.

Geographic Information System: The G.I.S. committee was very active planning and preparing a specification to be bid in FY 99 for a new system of mapping.

Water Storage Tank: Tighe & Bond, Town officials and citizens have been discussing site selection for a 4-5 million gallon storage tank. Discussions will continue into FY 99.

Hills Reservoir Road: The upper intake reservoir in Pelham was dredged and the gravel removed was used to rebuild the road to Hills Reservoir. An extensive system of drainage was also installed.

Atkins Watershed: Extensive brush cleaning was done behind the dam at Atkins Reservoir and around the setting basins. The easement on the raw water line was cleared and marked.

Water Conservation: Plans were made to have the Hitchcock Center offer water conservation training for all students in grades 2, 4 and 5 in the Amherst-Pelham Elementary Schools. Jason Scott, a UMass student intern, has begun doing surveys at the 3 colleges and the Amherst schools to evaluate their potential for water reduction. A report and scheduled meetings will be held in FY 99 to promote water conservation in these facilities.

Aquifer Monitoring Program: Town staff have established an extensive quarterly monitoring and testing program of the Lawrence Swamp Aquifer. This will include both groundwater levels and chemical analysis. This will establish an important baseline of data for future evaluation of the aquifer.

Water Main Flushing: All water mains were flushed this spring to remove sediment build-up.

Water Meters: All large meters were tested and calibrated in August of 1998. An aggressive program of residential meter replacement is continuing.

Robert E. Pariseau
Director of Water Resources

SANITARY LANDFILL OPERATIONS FY 98

Refuse Disposal

Refuse deposited and covered: 16,572 Tons
 Total sewer "grit" deposited and covered: 32 tons
 Fill used for cover material: 12,240 cubic yards (estimated)
 Furniture/mattresses - non-metal bulky waste: 19 Tons

Recycling Center - quantities sold or given away

Tires: 14.0 Tons
 Paper/Cardboard: 1,550.0 Tons
 Glass & Metal Containers: 696.0 Tons
 Scrap Metal/White Goods: 189.0 Tons
 Oil: 3,856.0 Gallons
 Leaves & Yard Waste: 402.0 Tons

Miscellaneous Items:

Trash-to-Treasure Furniture: 4.0 Tons
 Goodwill Textiles: 312 Cubic Yards
 Take it or Leave It/Book Shed No Accounting

Other:

Propane Tanks: 338
 Automobile Batteries: 87

Household Hazardous Waste:

Number of gallons collected: 2,288

Paint Program

600 Gallons

FY 98 OVERVIEW FOR SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING

This year brought many changes to the Solid Waste/Recycling programs of the Town of Amherst. The Municipal Recycling Incentive Program (MRIP) was initiated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Department of Environmental Protection. Amherst received \$8.00 per ton for participating in the MRIP Phase I and Phase II program as a town that has curbside recycling and unit-based pricing. Other criteria, including the adoption of a "Buy Recycled Policy" by the Selectboard, were met through the year. Other changes came as part of the contract with the operator of the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). The 100 towns who had a contract through FY 00 were asked to accept a new contract which voided the \$20 per ton revenue for materials delivered to the MRF. The towns were asked to accept a contract which paid \$10/ton retroactive for FY 97, and would pay \$5/ton for FY 98, \$3/ton for FY 99 and \$0/ton for FY00. It is anticipated that for FY 2001 the MRF will be able to offer increased revenue to the towns.

The fiscal year began with the continuation of the "privatized" curbside recycling program, residents continued to receive a weekly pickup of recycling on the same day as their trash pickup. The haulers, Amherst Trucking and Amherst Waste Control provide the service to their own customers. Amherst College properties served by BFI are also part of the program. The recyclables are brought to the University of Massachusetts Intermediate Processing Facility (IPF) and materials are then transferred to the MRF in Springfield. The Town of Amherst pays the University of Massachusetts (UM) for transfer services. The contract with UM continues to separate the fee so that \$20.00 per ton is paid on a monthly basis for materials transferred, and at the end of the fiscal year payment of \$9.00 per ton is paid as a revenue sharing agreement.

As of July 1, 1997 all properties in town were expected to be providing their own recycling pickup as the "transitional" program for multifamily properties ended June 30, 1997. In December, an intern was hired to research the current recycling plans of the multifamily properties and provide recycling information to help get recycling programs in place. The "Multifamily Recycling Pilot Program" offered a six-month supply of Town of Amherst clear bags and technical assistance to properties that requested assistance as part of a survey mailed to property managers and owners of multifamily buildings. The information from the study revealed that many properties have limited recycling in place and there are many units with no recycling. It was good news to discover that during the "transitional" program many of the properties that had been recycling as part of the "Town-provided" pickup started their own services on schedule. It is clear that there is still work to be done in the multifamily sector of Town.

The Solid Waste Committee and the Solid Waste/Recycling Coordinator began work to make recommendations for revision of the Board of Health regulations for Disposal of Solid Wastes and Refuse Collection and Mandatory Recycling. It is anticipated that the revisions will be complete by Fall 1998.

This was the second year of picking up only bagged leaves during the fall leaf collection. Few complaints were received and 80 tons of leaves were transferred to area farms for composting.

November 15, 1997 was the first annual "America Recycles Day." The Selectboard issued a proclamation giving Amherst's support and thus participation in the Massachusetts Recycles Day events. Unfortunately, a snow storm on Friday, November 14, 1997 forced the Amherst event from the Common. Angie Fowler and her intern Melissa Schumacher, braved a cold morning on the sidewalk in front of Bonducci's to promote the nationwide celebration.

The semi-annual Trash-to-Treasures event was held in September and May. The May 1998 event was the debut of the Amherst Survival Center as the new sponsor, taking over from North Congregational Church, who had run the event since it began in 1993.

The compost bin distribution program saw a decreased interest from Amherst residents. Compost bins were available on many advertised evenings throughout the spring and summer and included two Saturdays. Many of the bins were sold to MA residents who came a distance of 20 miles to purchase a bin. Based on these sales fewer compost bins were ordered for the FY 99 season.

In its report to the Spring Town meeting, the Solid Waste Committee included a description of twelve programs offered to the residents of Amherst, Pelham and Shutesbury from the Town of Amherst Solid Waste/Recycling Office. Since then a new

Universal Wastes recycling program for fluorescent bulbs and other mercury bearing wastes (such as button batteries, thermometers, thermostats) was started. These wastes are collected the last Saturday of April, May, June, July, September and October as part of the scheduled paint days and household hazardous waste collections. Businesses can participate by registering with the Solid Waste/Recycling Office.

FY 99 will see additional efforts to reach the multifamily and business sectors to help increase participation in programs. MRIP criteria will continue to be more challenging as the DEP pushes to reach a statewide goal of 46% recycling for the year 2000. Looking ahead to the anticipated DEP ban of the disposal of TV's and computer monitors, collection plans need to be implemented by July 1999.

Angela Fowler
Solid Waste/Recycling Coordinator

FY 98 ANNUAL REPORT

AMHERST REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (ARA)

The Amherst Redevelopment Authority (ARA) is a five member committee, with four members elected locally to the Authority and one member appointed by the Governor. This year Larry Kelley filled the Governor's appointee position. After having been appointed to fill out a partial term, Carl Seppala was elected to serve a full term on the ARA.

The Amherst Redevelopment Authority has oversight over the Urban Renewal Project Area, which comprises the Boltwood Walk area and adjacent properties in this downtown block. The ARA has certain maintenance responsibilities in this area, including repair and maintenance of the Boltwood Walk Directory Signs.

This year the major focus of the ARA has been the proposed municipal parking garage. This project is dependent on the conveyance of land owned by the ARA (Parcel C-3) as a site for the parking garage. The ARA has determined that the use of this parcel for the purposes of a parking garage is in keeping with the intent and goals of the 1973 Urban Renewal Plan. The ARA has a design review role in the parking garage project. The ARA has been developing the criteria for the conveyance of parcel C-3 to the Town of Amherst for the parking garage.

Members:

Fran Van Treese
Curtis Shumway
Nathan Salwen
Carl Seppala
Larry Kelley

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL SCHOOLS
FISCAL YEAR 1997-1998**

Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee

Joan Temkin, Chairperson (Pelham)
Nancy Ratner, Vice-Chairperson (Amherst)
Sandra Berkowitz, Secretary (Amherst)
William Hazelett (Pelham)
Marianne Jorgensen (Shutesbury)
Robert Stachowiak (Leverett)
Vladimir Morales (Amherst)
Ann Benson (Amherst)
Myra Ross (Amherst)

The Regional School Committee represents the four communities that comprise the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District: Amherst, Pelham, Leverett and Shutesbury. It is responsible for the direction and support of the educational programs for students in Grades 7 through 12 from each of these towns. Committee meetings are open to the public, except for executive sessions as prescribed by law, and are held regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month. Opportunity is available at every meeting for public participation.

Dr. Gus Sayer completed his ninth full school year as Superintendent of Schools.

STUDENTS

The enrollment in the Amherst-Pelham Regional Junior and Senior High Schools has continued to experience significant growth, as projected. The October 1 enrollment for 1994-1995 was 1,722. The October 1 enrollment for 1995-1996 was 1,769. The October 1 enrollment for 1996-1997 was 1,907. The October 1 enrollment for 1997-1998 was as follows:

Grade	Amherst	Pelham	Leverett	Shutesbury	Tuition	Wards	Total
7	245	19	32	37	0	1	334
8	282	25	23	38	0	0	368
9	248	16	16	28	0	3	311
10	263	15	24	27	1	4	334
11	269	10	23	28	0	0	330
12	207	11	23	19	0	0	260
TOTALS	1514	96	141	177	1	8	1937

In addition, 17 Regional students were enrolled in Smith Vocational School, Franklin County Vocational-Technical School or Pathfinder as of October 1, 1997. Tuition for these students to attend these vocational schools is paid by the Regional School District.

188 students from Amherst graduated with the class of 1998.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The instructional program, developed by teachers in all areas of the curriculum, reflects the overall philosophy and goals of education established by the School Committee. An appropriate range of support services remain in place to help students to achieve their highest possible potential. Included among these programs are Guidance, Health Services, Special Education, English as a Second Language and Transitional Bilingual Education.

The students in the Regional schools work hard and excel. For the 1997-98 school year, the high school had 34 National Merit Commendations and 9 National Merit Scholarship finalists who received Certificates of Merit in a class of 236 students. This year ninety-three percent of our students pursued higher education at colleges and universities across the nation after graduation from the Amherst Regional High School. Nationally normed standardized testing results reflect that, overall, our students score significantly above grade level in all areas tested. Students consistently enroll in courses beyond the standard graduation requirements.

Principal goals for the Regional Schools in 1996-1997 focused on the following:

1. Orienting and supporting the new secondary administrative team.
2. Continuing the development of the secondary school program, in order to realize the vision of a program that engages students in stimulating, meaningful and challenging learning.
3. Conducting a comprehensive review of the special education program.
4. Considering how other academic support services can be strengthened to enable more students to be successful academically.
5. Completing the high school renovation and beginning the assessment of middle school building needs.
6. Providing training and support to teachers for instructional uses of technology.
7. Reactivating the BAMSS (Becoming a Multicultural School System) Committee and continuing strategies for achieving BAMSS goals.

There were several matters to which the Regional School Committee gave considerable attention:

- ◆ In the Region the first priority has been to complete plans for the addition/renovation project at the high school. By September 1997, the high school program was united in a single Grade 9-12 building, resolving the overcrowding at both the former junior high and high school. It began to provide technological capabilities that will enhance students' learning and enable teachers to integrate technology more fully into the high school curriculum. This project will be completed in September 1998 with the renovation of the present 1956 building and its 1964 addition. In addition, the unique needs of early adolescents will be a focus for staff in Grades 7 and 8 at the middle school.
- ◆ The new Middle School Principal, Mary Cavalier, conducted on-going meetings to educate staff in middle school philosophy, including creating small communities for learning, teaching a core of common knowledge, ensuring success for all students, empowering staff to make decisions, staffing schools with experts in the education of early adolescents, fostering health and fitness, re-engaging families, and connecting schools with communities. Evening parent workshops took place as well. Committees were established to research curriculum, student management, advisory programs, schedules, instructional strategies, community service learning and assessment.

- ◆ The School Committee approved major changes to the high school daily schedule for 1998-99, changing the former two-semester format to a trimester system. The new schedule is expected to improve student learning, the quality of instruction and school climate.
- ◆ Secondary Curriculum Director, Wendy Kohler, proposed several new course offerings to the School Committee for approval including Yearbook and Newspaper Production, Transformational Geometry, Parameter Graphing, Inductive Geometry, Music of the Americas, Steel Drums, Personal Fitness and Conditioning, First Aid/CPR, The World of Dance, and Theater Arts
- ◆ The School Committee approved an Acceptable Use Policy for student and staff Internet access and members of the English Department oversaw student computer orientation through in-class lab training.
- ◆ Progress on each of the BAMSS (Becoming a Multicultural School System) Committee Goals was systematically reviewed with the School Committee. Each secondary School Council presented School Improvement Plans, which included initiatives which address BAMSS goals. Beverly Tatum of Mount Holyoke College was engaged to offer a course on anti-racism. To date, approximately 30 district staff members have taken the course.
- ◆ Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment Tests (MCAS) were administered to all eighth and tenth grade students. The tests are based on the Curriculum Frameworks developed by the Department of Education. Results will be available in Fall 1998.
- ◆ The School Committee continued approval of a policy that would allow home education students to participate in extra-curricular and athletic activities.
- ◆ The Regional Schools came under new leadership with Scott Goldman's appointment as High School Principal, William Wehrli and Dana Johnson as House Administrators, Mary Custard as Dean of Students, and Mary Cavalier as Middle School Principal.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMHERST SCHOOLS FISCAL YEAR 1997-1998

Amherst School Committee

Myra Ross, Chair
Nancy Ratner, Vice-Chair
Sandra Berkowitz, Secretary
Ann Benson
Vladimir Morales

The Amherst School Committee is an elected committee responsible for the public education of all children in kindergarten through grade six and of pre-school children with substantial special needs in our community. The Committee meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month and welcomes citizen participation at each meeting. The members of this committee also serve as Amherst's members of the Regional School Committee, which has responsibility for the educational programs for children in grades seven through twelve.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Student Enrollment as of October 1, 1997 was:

GRADE	STUDENTS
Pre K	61
K	185
1	230
2	220
3	251
4	217
5	262
6	<u>270</u>
TOTAL	1,696

Enrollments for 1997-98 were 36 less than the previous year.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The school district continued its level of instructional programs and services. This was the ninth full year of leadership by Superintendent Dr. Gus A. Sayer. Principal activities during the 1997-98 school year included the following:

- ◆ Elementary administrators worked toward strengthening the elementary reading program as a result of a reading review conducted during the 1996-97 school year. Instructional objectives for beginning reading were developed and materials were purchased to support the objectives. Staff workshops were conducted throughout the year on direct instruction of reading skills.

- ◆ Two members of the School Committee, Myra Ross and Sandra Berkowitz, continued to serve on the Joint Capital Planning Committee.
- ◆ Subsequent to a facilities audit conducted by CID Associates, the Building Needs Committee analyzed the space needs of the educational programs and enrollment projections. The Committee recommended that an expansion/renovation project be conducted at Crocker Farm School in order to solve space problems and end continued reliance on modular classrooms. Renovation projects were also recommended for Fort River, Wildwood and Mark's Meadow Schools in order to bring those buildings up to code, allowing them to continue to serve children for the next 20-30 years. A Building Committee will be appointed to begin implementation of these recommendations.
- ◆ The School Committee authorized a review of the special education program in cooperation with the Regional Schools. Dr. Anne Case, Dr. Judy Rigelhaupt and Dr. Ann Howard conducted a comprehensive review in the spring and will present the final report to the School Committee in September 1998. In conjunction with the study, a comprehensive survey, developed by a steering committee, was conducted of special education parents within the district.
- ◆ A World Languages Committee was established to consider the feasibility of creating a world languages program at the elementary schools. The Committee's report will be presented to the School Committee in early 1999.
- ◆ Under the direction of the technology coordinator, a training program was established that introduced staff to the use of computers and network resources in their instructional programs. The coordinator provided direct support to classrooms where teachers are using technology for the first time or are using computers in new ways.
- ◆ As a result of concerns about air quality at Fort River School, the Air Quality Committee wrote an air quality management plan and an air quality coordinator was identified in order to provide assistance with air quality complaints, to coordinate the Tools for Schools program, to collect and analyze air quality data more systematically and to communicate more effectively with staff and parents about progress on improving air quality at Fort River School.
- ◆ Progress on each of the BAMSS (Becoming a Multicultural School System) Committee Goals was systematically reviewed with the School Committee. Each elementary School Council presented School Improvement Plans, which included initiatives which address BAMSS goals. Beverly Tatum of Mount Holyoke College was engaged to offer a course on anti-racism. Approximately 30 district staff members have taken the course.
- ◆ Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment Tests were administered to all fourth grade students. The tests are based on the Curriculum Frameworks developed by the Department of Education. Results will be available in Fall 1998.
- ◆ A major beginning on the school districts' new computer technology program was made possible by Amherst Town Meeting, which had provided \$160,000 for new computer equipment in the schools. All elementary schools have also been wired for internal networks and access to the Internet.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL 98 SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

Much of the focus of the Solid Waste Committee (SWC) in FY 98 was on issues concerning recycling and access to our landfill, continuing from last year. The instruction from Town Meeting (Article 37, May 1997) to the SWC to report back in a year regarding the issuance of Vehicle Tags, currently required to gain access to the landfill and drop-off facility, consumed considerable time and effort. A special report that detailed the more than 10 programs for managing unwanted materials was distributed to Town Meeting members to read along with consideration of Article 34, which repeated the request of 1997 for unlimited access. Town Meeting voted to continue the restriction of access to Amherst, Shutesbury and Pelham residents. A positive outcome of this prolonged debate was the adoption of a new policy whereby Vehicle Tags would be supplied to all Amherst residents, independent of their method of trash collection, thus eliminating the previous difficulties for apartment residents. The tags are to be distributed along with the Landlord-Tenant Handbook.

Financially there were several changes. At the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Springfield the effect of poor markets for the various materials caused a revision in the contract of reimbursement per ton. This drops from \$20 for FY 96 to \$10 for FY 97, to \$5 for FY 98, to \$3 for FY 99, to zero in the year 2000, when the contract ends. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) began a new Municipal Recycling Incentive Program (MRIP) which rewards municipalities at a rate of \$8/ton for meeting certain standards, such as purchase of materials with recycled content. There were no new additions to the list of materials banned from landfills, but a new program for handling fluorescent light tubes was initiated, lowering the cost of diverting mercury-bearing wastes.

The continuing demand for a system that would accommodate the needs of households that generate less than a half barrel of trash per week was discussed at length. The haulers still oppose a change from the one-barrel minimum. Variances continue to be available for households who do not produce this volume.

The long-time requirement that trash be carried to the curb in "clear bags" continued to use up hours of debate. The SWC finally voted to recommend that this section be eliminated from the Board of Health (BOH) regulations and now seeks an alternative use for the thousands of these bags that the state supplied.

Revision of the BOH regulations for Solid Waste Management was undertaken by a special subcommittee of the SWC. It sought to clarify the language and to make the roles and responsibilities

of the resident, of the landlord and of the property manager both explicit and enforceable. The proposed revisions were given to the BOH for their review and approval.

An additional SWC subcommittee was formed during the year to examine the design, costs and location for building a Transfer Station which is likely to be needed once the present landfill is full. Its report recommends that Town Meeting be asked to authorize the hiring of an engineer to examine the alternatives and possibly to design a new facility.

Another subcommittee has been formed with a group of volunteers who maintain the neatness and accessibility of the Book Shed, tearing off the covers from unwanted books so that the interior pages can be added to the "mixed paper" category to go to the MRF. A similar subcommittee is being considered for improving the management of the Take-It-Or-Leave-It depository.

In an effort to improve the recycling performance of the commercial sector in town, plans have been made for educational meetings for businesses, so that the successful operations can be spotlighted and the most efficient practices offered as models.

Improvement of recycling levels in multi-family housing continues as a challenge. Recycling for businesses and apartment residents will be a top priority for FY 99.

Ellen Knox
Chair, Solid Waste Committee

TOWN/COMMERCIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE FY 98 ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 1998 was a busy year for the Town/Commercial Relations Committee. During the year, several important downtown projects recommended in the 1992 Downtown Action Plan were in various stages of development.

Boltwood Walk Parking Garage

Throughout FY 98, the TCRC expressed support for a downtown parking garage in the Boltwood Walk area. With TCRC assistance, that project passed several hurdles, including the 1997 Special Fall Town Meeting, a February 1998 referendum, Town Meeting member/Select Board elections and the 1998 Annual Town Meeting. State grant funds and necessary approvals have been obtained. The TCRC looks forward to reviewing designs for this critically important downtown project.

CARD Program

As part of its support for responsible downtown development and the parking garage project, the TCRC developed and submitted a successful proposal to re-establish a Commercial Area Revitalization District (CARD) in downtown Amherst, making selected state grants funding (Off-Street Parking Program, Public Works & Economic Development Program) available for projects in the downtown area.

First Kiosk & Postering

Following installation of components of the first downtown kiosk at the corner of Main and North Pleasant Streets, and initiation of preliminary postering regulations, the 1998 Annual Town Meeting approved an advisory article asking the Town not to restrict postering. This action put the future of downtown kiosks in doubt, for two reasons:

- Any new downtown kiosks, with or without surfaces reserved for postering, will invite postering. If no restriction or removal of posters is allowed, the kiosks' ability to successfully fulfill the service for which they were created--providing directions for downtown pedestrians--will be much more difficult.
- Postering advocates have asked for installation of many new postering surfaces in downtown Amherst, with posters of different kinds (entertainment, cultural events, advertising, personals, etc.) segregated into different locations so poster readers can find what they're looking for more easily. Without some kind of oversight, management and controls (like rules about which posters go where), such a system would be unworkable.

The TCRC will continue to seek ways to make directional kiosks a viable part of the wayfinding sign system for downtown Amherst.

Main Intersection

The TCRC reviewed ongoing design plans for improving traffic flow, bicycle transit and handicapped accessibility at the central downtown intersection of Main, Amity and Pleasant Streets. The TCRC was encouraged to learn that some Chapter 90 state highway funding can be used to purchase "period" poles and accessories for the historic downtown intersection.

Capital Budget Planning

The TCRC worked with the Design Review Board and Planning Department staff to develop capital budget proposals for the 1997 Special Fall Town Meeting and the 1998 Annual Town Meeting. Successful proposals included funding for the downtown parking garage and associated intersection improvements, downtown sidewalk accessibility improvements, historic preservation projects (West Cemetery) and the establishment of a planning/preservation grants response fund (enabling the Town to respond to unexpected grant opportunities that occur between capital budget cycles).

Consideration of funding for a comprehensive traffic study and pedestrianization design plan for the entire downtown was postponed until the 1999 Annual Town Meeting. This project would include many of the actions recommended in the 1992 Downtown Action Plan, community support for which have been re-affirmed in the recent Amherst Visions process.

In FY 98, a great deal of positive change got underway in downtown Amherst. The TCRC looks forward to helping to guide and shape that change.

Stephen Freedman, Chair
Town/Commercial Relations Committee

REPORT OF THE TOWN MEETING STUDY COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 1998

The Town Meeting Study Committee was established by the 1996 Annual Town Meeting "to study procedures and practices associated with Town Meeting, and submit recommendations for improvements therein to the next annual Town Meeting....."

In the course of its deliberations, the Committee drew upon the experience, thoughts, and judgment of many people. The Committee heard from the Moderator, the Town Manager, the Finance Director, the Chair of the Select Board, and the editor of the Amherst Bulletin. The Committee also consulted informally with the Chair of the School Committee and Town Counsel. In addition, the Committee did the following:

1. Held an open discussion meeting at the Jones Library.
2. Circulated a memorandum to Town Meeting members, inviting comments and suggestions.
3. Studied election and attendance information for the years 1991-1996.
4. Sent a questionnaire to all individuals elected to Town Meeting in 1994 who were no longer members.
5. Sent a questionnaire to all elected members of Town Meeting.
6. Published a preliminary report in April 1997.
7. Published a final report in October 1997.
8. Submitted recommendations to Town Meeting for appropriate action at the Fall Town Meeting.

Once Town Meeting acted on the Committee's final Report and recommendations, the Committee had fulfilled its charge and completed its work.

Nonny Burack
Carolyn Holstein
Janice Ratner
Peter Schneider
Otto Stein
Arthur Swift
Zina Tillona, Chair

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Treasurer's Office:

The interest earnings for FY 98 once again increased over the previous year. A total of \$809,361 was earned for the General Fund, Trust Funds, Enterprise Funds, Stabilization and Health Funds. This was a substantial increase over last year. This office continues to aggressively invest, but always with safety and liquidity in mind.

The only debt issued in FY 98, for the Gravity Belt Thickener, was temporary. The amount of \$195,000 was issued for one year. This project has been financed through temporary debt for the past three years and will be finished in FY 2000. The interest rates have been conducive to this type of funding mechanism. Even though no new debt was issued, new federal regulations required the mailing of a secondary disclosure document showing the financial status of the Town to all owners of previously sold bonds.

The Treasurer's Office, with the help of the Collector's Office staff, continues to collect all revenues from other departments in the Town. The following amounts were collected:

Select Board	\$ 145,160	Rentals	\$ 53,284
Assessors' Office	17,653	Town Clerk	25,521
Zoning	3,437	Planning	3,858
Police	131,336	Fire,EMS,Dispatch	85,649
Inspections	442,629	Public Works	13,531
Health	48,636	Conservation	10,543
Library	16,977	Leisure Services	771,000
Cherry Hill Golf	223,021		

This office also processes receipts from the School Department, numerous grants for all departments and the daily collections from the Collector's Office.

Collector's Office:

With the move back into the newly refurbished Town Hall, the "one stop shopping" Central Service Counter went into effect. The staff working the central service counter is composed of clerks from the Collector's, Assessors' and Town Clerk offices. Presently they are collecting real estate and personal property taxes, water/sewer payments, parking tickets, refuse payments, excise taxes, ambulance payments and revenues from other departments. They process dog licenses, fishing and hunting licenses and can register new voters. Abatements for excise taxes can be processed at the counter. The "team" which staffs the central service counter meets routinely to continue cross training for these processes and to discuss other services which could be handled at the counter. The goal continues to be better customer service through a "one stop" process.

The computer conversion continues. The new system is fully functional with billing and collections for real estate and personal property taxes, excise taxes and miscellaneous

receipts (other department revenues). The next module to be converted will be water and sewer billing and collection. This is scheduled for the spring of 1999. This has been a long and time consuming process, however, the end result has been worth the effort.

The direct debit program continues to be popular. There are now over 400 taxpayers using the process to pay their real estate, personal property, excise and water/sewer bills.

During FY 98, there were 749 certificates of municipal lien issued, generating \$18,725 in revenue. This is an increase of 249 liens over FY 97.

The "marking for non-renewal of license and/or registration" at the Registry of Motor Vehicles continues to be a successful program for collecting unpaid excise taxes and parking tickets. During FY 98, 1,669 releases were issued: 848 for excise taxes and 821 for parking tickets. In order to receive a release to clear the "mark" at the Registry, the person involved must pay all outstanding bills to the Town of Amherst. Without this program, many of these bills would have to be written off as uncollectible.

Collections on tax title accounts totalled \$102,693. Twenty (20) properties were paid in full and liens were removed. Twenty six (26) were placed in tax title for the first time during FY 98. Thirty-nine (39) properties had the FY 98 taxes added to their tax title account.

Fifteen (15) properties had their FY 98 taxes deferred. Payments on taxes previously deferred were \$27,343.

Norma J. Lynch
Treasurer/Collector

COLLECTOR'S FISCAL YEAR 1998 TOWN REPORT

TAX RATE	UNCOLLECTED BALANCE JULY 1, 1997	COMMITMENTS	LESS ABATEMENTS & TRANSFERS	LESS TRANSFERS TO TAX TITLE- DEFERRED TAXE	LESS COLLECTIONS	UNCOLLECTED BALANCE JUNE 30, 1998
REAL ESTATE						
FY 95 17.78	10,094	0	0	1,273	8,821	0
FY 96 18.39	96,213	0	0	2,630	88,092	5,491
FY 97 18.34	680,737	0	10,836	70,383	571,455	28,063
FY 98 19.20	0	18,879,959	110,709	29,782	18,185,871	553,596
	787,044	18,879,959	121,545	104,068	18,854,239	587,150
DEFERRED TAXES AND TAX TITLES						
TAX TITLE	340,520	89,740	54	0	107,799	322,407
DEFERRED	144,892	29,782	0	0	27,343	147,331
	485,412	119,522	54	0	135,142	469,738
PERSONAL PROPERTY						
FY 95 17.78	1,563	0	0	0	20	1,543
FY 96 18.39	871	0	0	0	163	708
FY 97 18.34	11,652	0	409	0	4,693	6,550
FY 98 19.20	0	654,639	2,532	0	640,962	11,145
	14,086	654,639	2,941	0	645,838	19,946
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE						
FY 89 25.00	22,611	0	22,595	0	16	0
FY 90 25.00	25,913	0	25,838	0	75	0
FY 91 25.00	22,770	0	93	0	427	22,250
FY 92 25.00	17,557	0	124	0	170	17,263
FY 93 25.00	12,515	0	0	0	622	11,893
FY 94 25.00	14,696	0	60	0	1,588	13,048
FY 95 25.00	18,521	94	191	0	2,194	16,330
FY 96 25.00	32,697	11,526	2,770	0	12,475	28,978
FY 97 25.00	52,223	276,251	38,519	0	254,385	35,570
FY 98 25.00	0	1,146,158	96,943	0	940,006	109,209
PRIOR YEARS	0	0	0	0	2,687	0
	219,603	1,434,029	187,133	0	1,214,645	254,541
FARM ANIMAL EXCISE						
FY 95 5.00	20	0	0	0	0	20
FY 97 5.00	0	788	200	0	285	303
	20	788	200	0	285	323
BOAT EXCISE						
FY 88 10.00	105	0	0	0	0	105
FY 92 10.00	85	0	0	0	0	85
FY 93 10.00	249	0	0	0	0	249
FY 94 10.00	218	0	0	0	0	218
FY 95 10.00	366	0	0	0	0	366
	1,023	0	0	0	0	1,023
FOREST PRODUCTS						
FY 93	6	0	0	0	0	6
FY 94	3	0	0	0	0	3
FY 97	0	3,667	0	0	3,667	0
	9	3,667	0	0	3,667	9
WATER						
RATES	402,383	2,702,985	203,451	0	2,076,324	825,593
LIENS	5,694	49,712	0	0	50,485	4,921
	408,077	2,752,697	203,451	0	2,126,809	830,514
SEWER						
RATES	352,644	2,315,408	201,631	0	1,769,831	696,590
LIENS	7,022	46,701	0	244	46,539	6,940
	359,666	2,362,109	201,631	244	1,816,370	703,530
AMBULANCE						
	501,217	857,795	39,687	0	710,982	608,343
LANDFILL REFUSE LIENS						
	327,010	930,565	693	0	1,036,808	220,074
	0	3,374	0	0	2,917	457
	327,010	933,939	693	0	1,039,725	220,531
PARKING FINES						
	147,775	106,645	0	0	103,103	151,317

VETERANS' SERVICES
Fiscal Year 1998 Annual Report

VETERANS' BENEFITS

The Department of Veterans' Services continues to offer assistance to veterans and their families through a number of federal and state programs. The state veterans' benefits program provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families, who qualify to receive benefits, and can show need. These benefits provide for medical care and cash for living expenses.

The Department of Veterans' Services will also aid veterans and their families in the filing of federal forms, which are necessary to receive a wide range of benefits provided by the Veterans Administration.

FISCAL YEAR 1998

This year, the Amherst Department of Veterans' Services granted aid to 24 veterans, four spouses, and six children of veterans. The department employed 6 VA workstudy students to help in the office. The veterans' administration pays the students directly to help in providing services for veterans.



AMHERST Massachusetts

TOWN HALL
4 BOLTWOOD AVENUE
AMHERST, MA 01002-2351

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Phone: (413) 256-4032

Town Report
July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

During the fiscal year 1998, 46 applications were filed with the Zoning Board of Appeals. Two of these were requests for variances from the dimensional requirements and both were granted. There were no Appeals of the Decision of the Building Commissioner filed this year.

The majority of the zoning requests were restaurant related. Maplewood Farms was granted a special permit to operate a farmstand restaurant/ brewery on Belchertown Road. Nine other permits for new food establishments, renewals, or change of ownership or management were granted. The Board approved three requests to erect fences in the front set-back to provide privacy and security. The Board also approved six requests to enlarge non-conforming dwellings and three requests to create apartments in existing homes.

The Board received and approved a request to operate a bed and breakfast at the Amherst House, a Victorian building with four guest rooms on Main Street, a massage therapy office in conjunction with a dental practice on Amity Street and a set of telecommunications antennas on St. Brigid's Church belltower on North Pleasant Street.

George Goodwin retired from the Board after graciously serving the Town for several years. Ed Sunderland, Keri Heitner and John Ryan were appointed as permanent members. Doris Harris and Susan Woglom were reappointed as alternates, and the Board welcomed new members Marc Cohen and Zina Tillona.



AMHERST Massachusetts

TOWN HALL
4 BOLTWOOD AVENUE
AMHERST, MA 01002

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER
Phone (413) 256-4026
FAX No. (413) 256-4007

REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER

The accompanying pages include the Town of Amherst's unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998, along with miscellaneous selected financial data.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine D. Roegge

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups

Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance - All Governmental Fund Types and Expendable Trust Funds

Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Retained Earnings/Fund Balances - All Proprietary Fund Types and Similar Trust Funds

Statement of Revenues and Other Sources and Expenditures and Other Uses Budget and Actual - General Fund

Combining Balance Sheet - Special Revenue, Capital Project, Enterprise, Internal Service and Trust and Agency Funds

Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance - Special Revenue, Capital Projects and Expendable Trust Funds

Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance - Special Revenue, Capital Projects and Expendable Trust Funds

Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Retained Earnings - Enterprise, Internal Service and Non-expendable Trust Funds

Reconciliation of Final Approved Budget - General Fund

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups On June 30, 1998 (Unaudited)

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
ASSETS								
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,107,912.04	\$ 1,150,496.35	\$ 213,093.71	\$ 4,761,741.71	\$ 531,013.54	\$ 2,975,052.21		\$ 14,739,309.56
Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Receivables:								
Property taxes	20,569,515.27	-	-	-	-	-		20,569,515.27
Tax liens and foreclosures	328,941.42	-	-	-	-	-		328,941.42
Excises	255,842.41	-	-	-	-	-		255,842.41
Utility Charges	-	-	-	2,803,375.50	-	-		2,803,375.50
Departmental	164,390.66	616,273.89	-	-	-	-		780,664.55
Deposits receivable	1,000.00	-	-	-	214,000.00	-		215,000.00
Other receivables	86,982.73	2,398.18	-	-	10,902.98	17,179.61		117,463.50
Due from other governments	71,519.14	29,142.62	-	-	-	-		100,661.76
Inventory	-	-	-	14,682.64	-	-		14,682.64
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	15,899,731.81	-	-		15,899,731.81
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds	-	-	-	7,375,167.00	-	-	\$ 11,226,233.00	18,601,400.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation and sick leave	-	-	-	141,149.29	-	-	1,066,401.00	1,207,550.29
Total Assets	\$ 26,586,103.67	\$ 1,798,311.04	\$ 213,093.71	\$ 30,995,847.95	\$ 755,916.52	\$ 2,992,231.82	\$ 12,292,634.00	\$ 75,634,138.71
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY								
Liabilities:								
Deferred revenue	\$ 21,316,086.74	\$ 615,789.98	\$ -	\$ 1,771,919.60	\$ 8,176.13	\$ 17,179.61		\$ 23,729,152.06
Provision for abatements and exemptions	96,843.54	-	-	-	-	-		96,843.54
Accounts payable	9,147.39	9.23	-	2,703.77	-	-		11,860.39
Accrued payroll and withholdings	874,356.53	44,607.89	-	-	-	-		918,964.42
Other liabilities	40,195.38	-	-	54,365.68	-	158,984.86		253,545.92
Bonds payable	-	-	-	7,375,167.00	-	-	\$ 11,226,233.00	18,601,400.00
Vacation and sick leave liability	-	-	-	141,149.29	-	-	1,066,401.00	1,207,550.29
Total Liabilities	22,336,629.58	660,407.10	-	9,345,305.34	8,176.13	176,164.47	12,292,634.00	44,819,316.62
Fund Equity:								
Reserved for encumbrances	532,494.66	143,552.67	99,085.22	626,864.47	-	-		1,401,997.02
Reserved for expenditures	278,324.05	1,094,534.00	-	850,700.00	-	15,000.00		2,238,558.05
Reserved for endowments	-	-	-	-	-	311,604.34		311,604.34
Unreserved, designated	(734,668.00)	-	-	928,809.00	-	1,253,375.31		1,447,516.31
Unreserved, undesignated	4,202,197.95	(100,182.73)	114,008.49	-	747,740.39	1,236,087.70		6,199,851.80
Unreserved retained earnings	-	-	-	19,244,169.14	-	-		19,244,169.14
Reserved for overlay deficits	(28,874.57)	-	-	-	-	-		(28,874.57)
Reserved for over/under assessments	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Total Fund Equity	4,249,474.09	1,137,903.94	213,093.71	21,650,542.61	747,740.39	2,816,067.35	-	30,814,822.09
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	\$ 26,586,103.67	\$ 1,798,311.04	\$ 213,093.71	\$ 30,995,847.95	\$ 755,916.52	\$ 2,992,231.82	\$ 12,292,634.00	\$ 75,634,138.71

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
All Governmental Fund Types and Expendable Trust Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1998
(Unaudited)

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund Type	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust	
Revenues:					
Property taxes	\$ 20,423,481.67	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,423,481.67
Excise taxes	1,237,215.36	-	-	-	1,237,215.36
Penalties, interest and other taxes	269,717.87	-	-	-	269,717.87
Charges for services	228,588.56	1,906,848.03	-	-	2,135,436.59
Licenses and permits	673,106.51	-	-	-	673,106.51
Intergovernmental	12,497,941.12	1,308,707.23	-	-	13,806,648.35
Fines and forfeits	326,853.41	-	-	-	326,853.41
Interest earnings	307,137.15	4,937.02	-	185,806.45	497,880.62
Miscellaneous	68,657.08	38,708.50	-	-	107,365.58
Contributions	-	154,727.21	-	-	154,727.21
Total Revenues	36,032,698.73	3,413,927.99	-	185,806.45	39,632,433.17
Expenditures:					
General government	4,252,294.16	3,341.14	944,037.74	16,480.46	5,216,153.50
Public safety	5,263,815.86	171,336.21	-	-	5,435,152.07
Education	19,686,653.88	867,035.55	404,150.37	-	20,957,839.80
Public works	1,639,927.00	679,633.02	103,170.24	-	2,422,730.26
Planning, conservation & inspections	768,138.61	157,534.15	-	-	925,672.76
Community services	1,089,828.20	852,128.09	-	-	1,941,956.29
Library services	1,068,053.30	-	-	-	1,068,053.30
Debt service	1,181,167.96	-	-	-	1,181,167.96
Intergovernmental	714,620.34	-	-	-	714,620.34
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	35,664,499.31	2,731,008.16	1,451,358.35	16,480.46	39,863,346.28
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	368,199.42	682,919.83	(1,451,358.35)	169,325.99	(230,913.11)
Other Financing Sources (Uses):					
Proceeds from sale of bonds	-	-	-	-	-
Operating transfers in	1,808,044.12	-	550,488.46	250,309.00	2,608,841.58
Operating transfers (out)	(799,003.33)	(1,144,685.00)	-	(31,000.00)	(1,974,688.33)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	1,009,040.79	(1,144,685.00)	550,488.46	219,309.00	634,153.25
Excess of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses	1,377,240.21	(461,765.17)	(900,869.89)	388,634.99	403,240.14
Fund Balance, July 1, 1997	2,934,632.50	1,632,319.11	1,113,963.60	2,100,828.02	7,781,743.23
Fund Balance, June 30, 1998	\$ 4,311,872.71	\$ 1,170,553.94	\$ 213,093.71	\$ 2,489,463.01	\$ 8,184,983.37

149

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Retained Earnings/Fund Balances
All Proprietary Fund Types and Similar Trust Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1998
(Unaudited)

	Proprietary Funds	Non- Expendable Trust	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	Enterprise	Internal Service	
Revenues:			
Property taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Charges for services	6,695,464.42	1,490,295.99	8,185,760.41
Interest earnings	281,428.89	41,346.95	344,119.76
Miscellaneous	32,650.00	-	32,650.00
Contributions	10,000.00	-	10,000.00
Total Revenues	7,019,543.31	1,531,642.94	8,575,530.17
Expenses:			
Personnel	1,406,026.88	1,568,626.69	2,974,653.57
Purchase of services	1,279,931.43	240,181.34	1,520,112.77
Supplies	173,865.38	-	173,865.38
Other charges and expenses	95,225.13	59,680.83	154,905.96
Intergovernmental	824,555.08	7,469.53	832,024.61
Capital outlay	149,977.40	-	149,977.40
Depreciation	611,918.29	-	611,918.29
Debt principal	1,083,708.00	-	1,083,708.00
Debt interest	492,460.30	-	492,460.30
Total Expenses	6,117,667.89	1,868,488.86	7,986,156.75
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	901,875.42	(336,845.92)	565,029.50
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Proceeds from issuance of bonds	-	-	-
Operating transfers in	324,632.00	-	324,632.00
Operating transfers (out)	(747,406.00)	-	(747,406.00)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(422,774.00)	-	(422,774.00)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenses and other uses	479,101.42	(336,845.92)	142,255.50
Retained Earnings/Fund Balances, July 1	21,171,441.19	1,084,586.31	22,256,027.50
Retained Earnings/Fund Balances, June 30	\$21,650,542.61	\$ 747,740.39	\$22,398,283.00

150

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Statement of Revenues and Other Sources and Expenditures and Other Uses
Budget and Actual - General Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1998
(Unaudited)

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues and Other Sources:			
Property taxes	\$ 20,416,234	\$ 20,423,481.67	7,248
Excise	1,001,000	1,237,215.36	236,215
Penalties, interest and other taxes	165,000	269,717.87	104,718
Charges for services	221,235	229,006.26	7,771
Licenses and permits	514,080	673,106.51	159,027
Intergovernmental	12,211,180	12,497,941.12	286,761
Interest earnings	275,000	324,090.85	49,091
Fines and forfeits	317,000	309,904.71	(7,095)
Miscellaneous	19,500	68,234.08	48,734
Transfers in	1,753,716	1,723,091.00	(30,625)
Other sources			
Total Revenues and Other Sources	36,893,945	37,755,789	861,844
Expenditures and Other Uses:			
General government	4,410,164	4,385,815	24,349
Public safety	5,332,722	5,327,956	4,766
Public works	1,683,490	1,680,018	3,472
Planning, conservation and inspections	786,384	780,083	6,301
Community services	1,090,970	1,089,680	1,290
Library services	1,121,039	1,110,788	10,251
Education	20,037,781	19,996,475	41,306
Debt service	1,200,909	1,181,168	19,741
Intergovernmental	855,544	846,065	9,479
Transfers out	374,941	374,941	-
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	36,893,945	36,772,989	120,956
Excess of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses	\$ 0	\$ 982,801	\$ 982,801

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combining Balance Sheet - Special Revenue Funds
On June 30, 1998
(Unaudited)

	Revolving Funds	Receipts Reserved For Appropriation	School Grants	Town Grants	Gifts	Other Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 278,979.51	\$ 1,375,110.53	\$ 30,035.29	\$ (614,409.60)	\$ 111,546.66	\$ 1,883.96	\$ 1,183,146.35
Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables:							
Property taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tax liens and foreclosures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Excises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utility Charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Departmental	-	616,273.89	-	-	-	-	616,273.89
Deposits receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other receivables	-	2,398.18	-	-	-	-	2,398.18
Due from other governments	18,177.24	-	10,965.38	-	-	-	29,142.62
Inventory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amounts to be provided - vacation and sick leave	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Assets	\$ 297,156.75	\$ 1,993,782.60	\$ 41,000.67	\$ (614,409.60)	\$ 111,546.66	\$ 1,883.96	\$ 1,830,961.04
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY							
Liabilities:							
Deferred revenue	\$ -	\$ 615,789.98	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 615,789.98
Provision for abatements and exemptions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accounts payable	9.23	-	-	-	-	-	9.23
Accrued payroll and withholdings	31,804.35	-	12,803.54	-	-	-	44,607.89
Other liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonds payable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vacation and sick leave liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	31,813.58	615,789.98	12,803.54	-	-	\$ -	660,407.10
Fund Equity:							
Reserved for encumbrances	8,134.73	-	1,640.12	130,463.82	3,314.00	-	143,552.67
Reserved for expenditures	151,099.00	943,435.00	-	-	-	-	1,094,534.00
Reserved for endowments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unreserved, designated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unreserved, undesignated	106,109.44	434,557.62	26,557.01	(744,873.42)	108,232.66	1,883.96	(67,532.73)
Unreserved retained earnings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reserved for overlay deficits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reserved for over/under assessments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Fund Equity	265,343.17	1,377,992.62	28,197.13	(614,409.60)	111,546.66	1,883.96	1,170,553.94
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	\$ 297,156.75	\$ 1,993,782.60	\$ 41,000.67	\$ (614,409.60)	\$ 111,546.66	\$ 1,883.96	\$ 1,830,961.04

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combining Balance Sheet - Capital Project Funds
On June 30, 1998
(Unaudited)

	Town Projects	Puffer's Pond	Town Hall	School Capital	(Memorandum Only)
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 58,829.98	\$ 5,792.90	\$ 2,132.74	\$ 146,338.09	\$ 213,093.71
Investments					-
Receivables					-
Inventory					-
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation					-
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds					-
Amounts to be provided - vacation and sick leave					-
Total Assets	\$ 58,829.98	\$ 5,792.90	\$ 2,132.74	\$ 146,338.09	\$ 213,093.71
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY					
Liabilities:					
Total Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fund Equity:					
Reserved for encumbrances	47,289.33		2,532.74	49,263.15	99,085.22
Reserved for expenditures					-
Reserved for endowments					-
Unreserved, designated					-
Unreserved, undesignated	11,540.65	5,792.90	(400.00)	97,074.94	114,008.49
Unreserved retained earnings					-
Reserved for overlay deficits					-
Reserved for over/under assessments					-
Total Fund Equity	58,829.98	5,792.90	2,132.74	146,338.09	213,093.71
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	\$ 58,829.98	\$ 5,792.90	\$ 2,132.74	\$ 146,338.09	\$ 213,093.71

153

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combining Balance Sheet - Enterprise Funds
On June 30, 1998
(Unaudited)

	Sewer Fund	Water Fund	Solid Waste Fund	Golf Course	Totals (Memorandum Only)
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,052,121.54	\$ 1,386,773.11	\$ 2,256,684.57	\$ 66,162.49	\$ 4,761,741.71
Investments					-
Receivables:					
Utility Charges	1,192,749.50	1,389,224.48	221,401.52		2,803,375.50
Inventory				14,682.64	14,682.64
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation	5,347,906.43	8,316,501.46	1,365,656.45	869,667.47	15,899,731.81
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds	191,400.00	5,822,102.00	1,361,665.00	-	7,375,167.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation and sick leave	56,657.12	53,593.78	24,026.30	6,872.09	141,149.29
Total Assets	\$ 7,840,834.59	\$ 16,968,194.83	\$ 5,229,433.84	\$ 957,384.69	\$ 30,995,847.95
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY					
Liabilities:					
Deferred revenue	\$ 712,536.00	\$ 837,982.08	\$ 221,401.52		\$ 1,771,919.60
Provision for abatements and exemptions					-
Accounts payable			1,214.94	\$ 1,488.83	2,703.77
Accrued payroll and withholdings					-
Other liabilities		2,067.28	52,298.40		54,365.68
Bonds payable	191,400.00	5,822,102.00	1,361,665.00	-	7,375,167.00
Vacation and sick leave liability	56,657.12	53,593.78	24,026.30	6,872.09	141,149.29
Total Liabilities	960,593.12	6,715,745.14	1,660,606.16	8,360.92	9,345,305.34
Fund Equity:					
Reserved for encumbrances	430,506.78	149,831.03	44,350.03	2,176.63	626,864.47
Reserved for expenditures	373,801.00	476,899.00			850,700.00
Unreserved, designated			928,809.00		928,809.00
Unreserved retained earnings	6,075,933.69	9,625,719.66	2,595,668.65	946,847.14	19,244,169.14
Reserved for over/under assessments					-
Total Fund Equity	6,880,241.47	10,252,449.69	3,568,827.68	949,023.77	21,650,542.61
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	\$ 7,840,834.59	\$ 16,968,194.83	\$ 5,229,433.84	\$ 957,384.69	\$ 30,995,847.95

154

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combining Balance Sheet - Internal Service Funds
On June 30, 1998
(Unaudited)

ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	Health Insurance	Workers Compensation	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Receivables:			
Deposits receivable	\$ 351,541.57	\$ 179,471.97	\$ 531,013.54
Other receivables	214,000.00		214,000.00
Due from other governments	10,902.98		10,902.98
Total Assets	<u>\$ 576,444.55</u>	<u>\$ 179,471.97</u>	<u>\$ 755,916.52</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY			
Liabilities:			
Deferred revenue	\$ 8,176.13		\$ 8,176.13
Provision for abatements and exemptions			
Accounts payable			
Total Liabilities	<u>8,176.13</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,176.13</u>
Fund Equity:			
Unreserved, undesignated	568,268.42	179,471.97	747,740.39
Total Fund Equity	<u>568,268.42</u>	<u>179,471.97</u>	<u>747,740.39</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u>\$ 576,444.55</u>	<u>\$ 179,471.97</u>	<u>\$ 755,916.52</u>

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combining Balance Sheet - Trust and Agency Funds
On June 30, 1998
(Unaudited)

	Non-expendable		Expendable			School Agency Fund	Town Agency Fund	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	Trust Principal	Trust Income	Stabilization Fund	Conservation Fund	Insurance Claims			
ASSETS								
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 285,945.26	\$ 40,659.08	\$ 2,392,370.78	\$ 894.93	\$ 96,197.30	\$ 1,411.15	\$ 157,573.71	\$ 2,975,052.21
Investments								
Receivables:								
Property taxes								
Tax liens and foreclosures								
Excises								
Utility Charges								
Departmental								
Deposits receivable								
Other receivables							17,179.61	17,179.61
Due from other governments								
Inventory								
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation								
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds								
Amounts to be provided - vacation and sick leave								
Total Assets	<u>\$ 285,945.26</u>	<u>\$ 40,659.08</u>	<u>\$ 2,392,370.78</u>	<u>\$ 894.93</u>	<u>\$ 96,197.30</u>	<u>\$ 1,411.15</u>	<u>\$ 174,753.32</u>	<u>\$ 2,992,231.82</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY								
Liabilities:								
Deferred revenue							\$ 17,179.61	\$ 17,179.61
Provision for abatements and exemptions								
Accounts payable								
Accrued payroll and withholdings								
Other liabilities						\$ 1,411.15	157,573.71	158,984.86
Bonds payable								
Vacation and sick leave liability								
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>1,411.15</u>	<u>174,753.32</u>	<u>176,164.47</u>
Fund Equity:								
Reserved for encumbrances		15,000.00						15,000.00
Reserved for expenditures								
Reserved for endowments	285,945.26							285,945.26
Unreserved, designated			1,212,179.62		41,195.69			1,253,375.31
Unreserved, undesignated		25,659.08	1,180,191.16	894.93	55,001.61			1,261,746.78
Unreserved retained earnings								
Reserved for overlay deficits								
Reserved for over/under assessments								
Total Fund Equity	<u>285,945.26</u>	<u>40,659.08</u>	<u>2,392,370.78</u>	<u>894.93</u>	<u>96,197.30</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,816,067.35</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u>\$ 285,945.26</u>	<u>\$ 40,659.08</u>	<u>\$ 2,392,370.78</u>	<u>\$ 894.93</u>	<u>\$ 96,197.30</u>	<u>\$ 1,411.15</u>	<u>\$ 174,753.32</u>	<u>\$ 2,992,231.82</u>

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
All Special Revenue Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1998
(Unaudited)

	Revolving Funds	Receipts Reserved for Appropriation	School Grants	Town Grants	Gifts	Other Special Revenue	Total
Revenues:							
Property taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Excise taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Penalties, interest and other taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,906,848.03
Charges for services	892,224.08	1,014,623.95	-	-	-	-	-
Licenses and permits	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,308,707.23
Intergovernmental	244,259.82	73,656.82	403,473.47	587,317.12	-	-	-
Fines and forfeits	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,937.02
Interest earnings	4,882.39	-	-	54.63	-	-	38,708.50
Miscellaneous	20,953.72	-	-	14,018.78	-	3,736.00	154,727.21
Contributions	-	-	-	-	154,727.21	-	3,413,927.99
Total Revenues	1,162,320.01	1,088,280.77	403,473.47	601,390.53	154,727.21	3,736.00	
Expenditures:							
General government	-	-	-	-	3,341.14	-	3,341.14
Public safety	-	-	-	159,950.61	3,302.19	8,083.41	171,336.21
Education	480,039.47	-	339,358.07	-	47,638.01	-	867,035.55
Public works	-	-	-	672,633.02	7,000.00	-	679,633.02
Planning, conservation & inspections	-	-	-	138,605.35	18,448.80	480.00	157,534.15
Community services	599,164.43	-	-	261,843.20	23,770.46	-	884,778.09
Library services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	1,079,203.90	-	339,358.07	1,233,032.18	103,500.60	8,563.41	2,763,658.16
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	83,116.11	1,088,280.77	64,115.40	(631,641.65)	51,226.61	(4,827.41)	650,269.83
Other Financing Sources (Uses):							
Proceeds from sale of bonds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating transfers in	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating transfers (out)	(151,099.00)	(993,586.00)	-	-	-	-	(1,144,685.00)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(151,099.00)	(993,586.00)	-	-	-	-	(1,144,685.00)
Excess of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses	(67,982.89)	94,694.77	64,115.40	(631,641.65)	51,226.61	(4,827.41)	(494,415.17)
Fund Balance, July 1, 1997	333,326.06	1,283,297.85	(35,918.27)	(15,417.95)	60,320.05	6,711.37	1,632,319.11

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Capital Project Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1998
(Unaudited)

	Town Projects	Puffers Pond	Town Hall	School Capital	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Revenues:					
Total Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Expenditures:					
General government	2,782.59	-	941,255.15	-	944,037.74
Public safety	-	-	-	-	-
Education	-	-	-	404,150.37	404,150.37
Public works	103,170.24	-	-	-	103,170.24
Planning, conservation and inspections	-	-	-	-	-
Community services	-	-	-	-	-
Library services	-	-	-	-	-
Debt service	-	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	105,952.83	-	941,255.15	404,150.37	1,451,358.35
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(105,952.83)	-	(941,255.15)	(404,150.37)	(1,451,358.35)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Proceeds from sale of bonds	-	-	-	-	-
Operating transfers in	-	-	-	550,488.46	550,488.46
Operating transfers (out)	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-	-	-	550,488.46	550,488.46
Excess of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses	(105,952.83)	-	(941,255.15)	146,338.09	(900,869.89)
Fund Balance, July 1, 1997	164,782.81	5,792.90	943,387.89	-	1,113,963.60
Fund Balance, June 30, 1998	\$ 58,829.98	\$ 5,792.90	\$ 2,132.74	\$ 146,338.09	\$ 213,093.71

COMMISSION OF AMHERST MASSACHUSETTS

COMMISSION OF AMHERST MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Retained Earnings
All Enterprise Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1998
(Unaudited)

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Retained Earnings
All Enterprise Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1998
(Unaudited)

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Retained Earnings
Internal Service Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1998
(Unaudited)

	Health Insurance	Workers Compensation	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Revenues:			
Charges for services	\$ 1,377,395.99	\$ 112,900.00	\$ 1,490,295.99
Interest earnings	30,785.37	10,561.58	41,346.95
Total Revenues	1,408,181.36	123,461.58	1,531,642.94
Expenses:			
Personnel	1,411,692.77	156,933.92	1,568,626.69
Purchase of services	230,120.09	10,061.25	240,181.34
Supplies	40,058.34	19,622.49	59,680.83
Other charges and expenses	1,681,871.20	186,617.66	1,868,488.86
Total Expenses	(273,689.84)	(63,156.08)	(336,845.92)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses			
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Proceeds from issuance of bonds			-
Operating transfers in			-
Operating transfers (out)			-
Total Other Financing Uses			-
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenses and other uses	(273,689.84)	(63,156.08)	(336,845.92)
Retained Earnings/Fund Balances, July 1	841,958.26	242,628.05	1,084,586.31
Retained Earnings/Fund Balances, June 30	\$ 568,268.42	\$ 179,471.97	\$ 747,740.39

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Equity
Expendable and Non-Expendable Trust Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1998
(Unaudited)

	Interest	Other Revenues	Total Resources	Operating Expenditures	Excess (Deficiency)	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Net Change in Fund Balance	Fund Balance June 30, 1997	Fund Balance June 30, 1998
Martha D. Bianchi Fund			\$ -		\$ -			\$ -	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 1,025.00
Alice C. Burnham Fund			-		-			-	15,020.66	15,020.66
Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund		\$ 3,000.00	3,000.00		3,000.00			3,000.00	70,002.64	73,002.64
Ephraim Y. Cosby Fund			-		-			-	500.00	500.00
Florence B. Cutler Fund			-		-			-	2,000.00	2,000.00
S. White Dickinson Fund			-		-			-	5,000.00	5,000.00
George S. Kendrick Fund			-		-			-	1,899.15	1,899.15
Herbert B. Adams Fund			-		-			-	2,814.31	2,814.31
R. J. D. Westcott Fund			-		-			-	3,101.81	3,101.81
Alfred F. Field, Jr. Fund			-		-			-	82,442.15	82,442.15
William E. Smith Fund			-		-			-	1,899.15	1,899.15
Whiting Street Fund			-		-			-	9,040.61	9,040.61
E. F. Cook Fountain Fund			-		-			-	2,346.54	2,346.54
Barbara Smith Hospital Fund	\$ 468.91		468.91		468.91			468.91	6,880.16	7,349.07
Betty Jane Donley Fund			-		-			-	78,504.17	78,504.17
Total principal	468.91	3,000.00	3,468.91	\$ -	3,468.91	\$ -	\$ -	3,468.91	282,476.35	285,945.26
Martha Dickinson Bianchi Memorial	66.73		66.73		66.73			66.73	291.93	358.66
Alice C. Burnham-West Cemetery Gate	978.92		978.92		978.92			978.92	4,364.24	5,343.16
Cemetery Perpetual Care	5,299.65		5,299.65		5,299.65			5,299.65	14,974.55	20,274.20
Ephraim Y. Cosby-West Cemetery	38.69		38.69		38.69			38.69	216.16	254.85
Florence B. Cutler-West Cemetery	154.77		154.77		154.77			154.77	724.66	879.43
S. White Dickinson Cemetery Fund	386.94		386.94		386.94			386.94	1,786.66	2,173.60
George S. Kendrick-West Cemetery	146.58		146.58		146.58			146.58	657.81	804.39
Alfred E. Field, Jr.	6,298.25		6,298.25	3,892.53	2,405.72			2,405.72	148.07	2,553.79
William E. Smith	146.94		146.94	195.00	(48.06)			(48.06)	897.50	849.44
Whiting Street Fund	638.44		638.44	1,382.00	(743.56)			(743.56)	-	(743.56)
Herbert B. Adams	187.34		187.34		187.34			187.34	94.44	281.78
R.J.D. Westcott	240.03		240.03		240.03			240.03	132.39	372.42
E.F. Cook Fountain	230.38		230.38		230.38			230.38	251.92	482.30
Betty Donnelly Scholarship	6,061.35		6,061.35	2,000.00	4,061.35			4,061.35	2,712.91	6,774.26
Total income	20,875.01	-	20,875.01	7,469.53	13,405.48	-	-	13,405.48	27,253.24	40,658.72
Total Non-expendable Trust Funds	\$ 21,343.92	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 24,343.92	\$ 7,469.53	\$ 16,874.39	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,874.39	\$ 309,729.59	\$ 326,603.98

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
FY 98 Approved Budget
General Fund

	FY 98 ATM April-May 97	FY 98 STM 10/97	FY 98 STM 10/98	Less: Direct Expenditures	Debt Exclusions	Reserve Fund Transfers	Final Approved Budget
OPERATING BUDGETS							
General Government:							
Select Board	\$ 41,705.00						\$ 41,705.00
Town Manager	146,645.00						146,645.00
Finance Committee and Reserve Fund	870.00						870.00
Elections and Registration	31,806.00					\$ 475.00	32,281.00
Finance Department	617,303.00						617,303.00
Town Clerk's Office	127,028.00					6,937.00	133,965.00
Legal Services	81,650.00						81,650.00
Human Resources/AA	1,051,724.00						1,051,724.00
Facilities Maintenance	318,890.00						318,890.00
General Services	437,616.00						437,616.00
Budget Reserve							
Total General Government	2,855,237.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	7,412.00	2,862,649.00
Public Safety:							
Police	2,362,522.00						2,362,522.00
Police Facility	114,192.00						114,192.00
Fire/Emergency Medical Services	2,223,405.00						2,223,405.00
Communications Center	376,303.00						376,303.00
Animal Control	23,300.00						23,300.00
Budget Reserve							
Total Public Safety	5,099,722.00	-	-	-	-	-	5,099,722.00
Public Works:							
Public Works Administration	176,002.00						176,002.00
Construction and Maintenance	506,455.00						506,455.00
Sidewalk Construction	10,000.00						10,000.00
Snow and Ice Removal	89,940.00					5,727.00	95,667.00
Street and Traffic Lights	151,900.00						151,900.00
Equipment Maintenance	175,340.00						175,340.00
Parking Facilities	106,331.00						106,331.00
Tree Care and Pest Control	107,061.00						107,061.00
Town Cemeteries	12,525.00						12,525.00
Parks and Commons	151,209.00						151,209.00
Total Public Works	1,486,763.00	-	-	-	-	5,727.00	1,492,490.00
Planning, Conservation and Inspections:							
Inspection Services	311,679.00						311,679.00
Zoning Board	37,407.00						37,407.00
Design Review Board	390.00						390.00
Planning Board	5,475.00						5,475.00
Conservation Commission	149,612.00					451.00	149,612.00
Planning Department	229,471.00					5,049.00	229,471.00
Historical Commission							
Budget Reserve							
Total Planning, Conservation and Inspections	734,034.00	-	-	-	-	5,500.00	739,534.00
Community Services:							
Public Health	94,786.00						94,786.00
Children's Services	47,027.00						47,027.00
Council On Aging	169,488.00						169,488.00
Veterans' Services and Benefits	130,763.00						130,763.00
Town Commemorations	1,075.00						1,075.00
Housing Partnership/Fair Housing	400.00						400.00
Leisure Services and Supplemental Education	327,450.00					10,671.00	338,121.00
Municipal Pools	102,953.00						102,953.00
Budget Reserve							
Total Community Services	873,942.00	-	-	-	-	10,671.00	884,613.00
Library Services:							
Jones Library	1,318,905.00			(255,016.00)			1,063,889.00
Total Library Services	1,318,905.00	-	-	(255,016.00)	-	-	1,063,889.00
Public Education:							
Elementary Schools	12,323,609.00						12,323,609.00
Regional School District	6,618,754.00				636,401.00		7,255,155.00
Total Public Education	18,942,363.00	-	-	-	636,401.00	-	19,578,764.00
Debt Service:							
Debt Principal							
General	649,206.00						649,206.00
Elementary Schools	75,000.00						75,000.00
Debt Interest							
General	437,203.00						437,203.00
Elementary Schools	19,500.00						19,500.00
Temporary Debt/Borrowing Costs	20,000.00						20,000.00
Total Debt Service	1,200,909.00	-	-	-	-	-	1,200,909.00

All Special Articles designated FY 98 were passed at ATM 97.

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
FY 98 Approved Budget
General Fund

	FY 98 ATM April-May 97	FY 98 STM 10/97	FY 98 STM 10/98	Less: Direct Expenditures	Debt Exclusions	Reserve Fund Transfers	Final Approved Budget
OPERATING BUDGETS							
Transfers:							
Golf Fund	109,832.00						109,832.00
Sewer Fund	14,800.00						14,800.00
Stabilization	250,309.00						250,309.00
Total Transfers	374,941.00	-	-	-	-	-	374,941.00
Unpaid Bills:							
Town			8,138.88				8,138.88
Elementary Schools		2,341.47					2,341.47
Total Unpaid Bills	-	2,341.47	8,138.88	-	-	-	10,480.35
Assessments:							
County							
County Tax	49,171.00						49,171.00
State							
Special Education	3,408.00						3,408.00
Energy Conservation Program	3,311.00						3,311.00
Motor Vehicle Parking Surcharge	20,540.00						20,540.00
Retired Teachers Health Insurance	137,748.00						137,748.00
Air Pollution Control Districts	6,064.00						6,064.00
Other							
Regional Transit Authorities	630,018.00						630,018.00
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	5,284.20						5,284.20
Total Assessments	855,544.20	-	-	-	-	-	855,544.20
SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS							
General Government:							
Art 11 (FY 98) - Reserve Fund	85,000.00					(29,310.00)	55,690.00
Art 12 (FY 98) - Retirement Assessment	1,321,862.00						1,321,862.00
Art 13 (FY 98) - ACTV	4,000.00						4,000.00
Art 19 (FY 98) - Capital Program - Equipment	27,463.00						27,463.00
Art 21 (FY 98) - Capital Program - Buildings & Facilities	138,500.00						138,500.00
Total Gen Gov Special Appropriations	1,576,825.00	-	-	-	-	(29,310.00)	1,547,515.00
Public Safety:							
Art 19 (FY 98) - Capital Program - Equipment	233,000.00						233,000.00
Total Public Safety Special Appropriations	233,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	233,000.00
Public Works:							
Art 19 (FY 98) - Capital Program - Equipment	152,500.00						152,500.00
Art 17 (STM 10/97) Parking		38,500.00					38,500.00
Total Public Works Special Appropriations	152,500.00	38,500.00	-	-	-	-	191,000.00
Planning, Conservation & Inspections:							
Art 21 (FY 98) - Capital Program - Buildings & Facilities	11,850.00						11,850.00
Art 18 (FY 98) - Capital Program - Conservation	20,000.00						20,000.00
Art 23 (FY 98) - Comprehensive Plan	15,000.00						15,000.00
Total Planning, Conservation and Inspections	46,850.00	-	-	-	-	-	46,850.00
Community Services:							
Art 14 (FY 98) - Human Service Agencies	123,357.00						123,357.00
Art 16 (FY 98) - Congregate Housing	45,000.00						45,000.00
Art 19 (FY 98) - Capital Program - Equipment	7,000.00						7,000.00
Art 22 (FY 98) - Athletic fields	31,000.00						31,000.00
Total Community Services	206,357.00	-	-	-	-	-	206,357.00
Library Services:							
Art 19 (FY 98) - Capital Program - Equipment	26,850.00						26,850.00
Art 21 (FY 98) - Capital Program - Buildings & Facilities	30,300.00						30,300.00
Total Library Services	57,150.00	-	-	-	-	-	57,150.00
Public Education:							
Art 19 (FY 98) - Capital Program - Equipment	312,537.00						312,537.00
Art 21 (FY 98) - Capital Program - Buildings & Facilities	136,000.00						136,000.00
Total Public Ed Special Appropriations	448,537.00	-	-	-	-	-	448,537.00
GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$ 36,463,579.20	\$ 40,841.47	\$ 8,138.88	\$ (255,016.00)	\$ 636,401.00	\$ -	\$ 36,893,944.55

All Special Articles designated FY 98 were passed at ATM 97.

**OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
FISCAL YEAR 1998**

FY 98 was an intense and challenging year. Changes in office space, organizational procedures and Town Meeting controversies illustrate the activity and vibrancy of the Town Clerk's office.

A piece of exciting news is the move back to the Town Hall from the Bangs Community Center. This move had been anticipated since the start of the renovation. Many customers and clients have expressed delight at the changes and updates to the building. Employees of the building have also expressed appreciation at the new office spaces.

The vault in the Town Clerk's office has also had its own renovation. New shelves have been added, which greatly improve the organization and long-term storage of the permanent records. With the addition of the shelves, records which used to be folded can now be stored flat in acid-free folders, which will greatly prolong their life. The archival vault downstairs will also be receiving a face-lift. When the shelves are installed, the remaining records will be able to be moved from their temporary storage facility and accommodated on-site.

An organizational change has occurred in the Town Clerk's office. With the establishment of the Central Services Counter, the following services formerly provided by the Town Clerk's office are now performed there: voter registration, the sale of street lists and the issuing of Fisheries and Wildlife licenses and dog licenses.

During the year, there was a significant drop in the number of Fisheries and Wildlife licenses sold. It is believed this is due to the large increase in the price of the licenses.

The length of town meetings seemed to increase this year. Both the Special Town Meeting in October and the Annual Town Meeting in the spring ran for eight sessions. Both Town Meetings consisted of highly charged topics. The Special Town Meeting in October was particularly controversial due to Article 19, Parking Garage. There was a considerable amount of discussion, and the article was passed with a tally vote.

A group of Town citizens who felt that the garage issue was not settled at Town Meeting called for a referendum election. The required number of signatures was obtained and on February 2, 1998, a referendum election was held. The election results upheld the vote of Town Meeting.

Cornelia D. Como
Town Clerk

VITAL STATISTICS - FY98

BIRTHS 168

DEATHS 125

MARRIAGES 133

VOTING INFORMATION 1997-1998

<u>PRECINCT</u>	<u>VOTERS</u>	<u>POLL LOCATION</u>	<u>TM MEMBER</u>
1	1,153	No Congregational Church Hall	24
2	1,761	North Fire Station	24
3	1,386	Immanuel Lutheran Church Lounge	24
4	483	Bangs Community Center	24
4A	866	Hampden Student Center	24
5	1,483	Bangs Community Center	24
6	1,968	Fort River School	24
7	1,832	Crocker Farm School	24
8	2,100	Munson Memorial Library	24
9	1,734	Wildwood School	24
10	714	Bangs Community Center	24
10A	456	Hampden Student Center	24
TOTAL	15,936		240

* * *

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

October 27, 29, November 3, 5, 12, 17, 19, December 1, 1997

The meeting was televised by Amherst Community Television and shown on the Government Channel 20.

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Harrison Gregg at 7:40 p.m. There were 244 Town Meeting Members. 171 checked in and a quorum was declared. The call and return of the meeting were read by Town Clerk, Cornelia D. Como. Fred Hartwell, Nathan Salwen, Arthur Keene, Josette Henschel, Mary Custard, James Scott and Isabelle Callahan, Hilda Greenbaum and Ann Grose were sworn as tellers.

ARTICLE 1. Reports of Boards and Committees

Voted unanimously that the Town hear only those reports of Town officers, the Finance Committee, and any other Town boards or committees which are not available in written form.

Action taken on 10/27/1997.

ARTICLE 2. Town Bylaw - Rules of Order for Town Meeting - Rule 3

DEFEATED. (Motion to limit . . . Moderator shall call for and recognize no more than 6 speakers alternating speaking in favor . . . opposed. . . . limited to 2 minutes without extension.)

Action taken on 10/27/1997.

ARTICLE 3. Town Bylaw - Rules of Order for Town Meeting - Rule 4

Voted that the Town amend Article 1, Rule 4, of the Town Bylaws by substituting for Rule 4 the following:

4. Following a motion under any article, the Moderator shall first recognize the proponent thereof to speak for up to five (5) minutes in favor of the motion, or with leave of Town Meeting, for additional time. Thereafter, and in the absence of leave of Town Meeting granting additional time, each subsequent speaker shall be limited to three (3) minutes. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject, without leave of the meeting, except to raise a point of order or to answer a question.

Action taken on 10/27/1997.

ARTICLE 4. Town Bylaw - Rules of Order for Town Meeting - Rule 6

DEFEATED. YES 71, NO 84. (As the ayes and noes are called on a standing vote, each voting member shall rise and surrender to the teller for later public inspection a card bearing the member's name)

Action taken on 10/27/1997.

* * *

10:10 p.m. The meeting voted to adjourn to Wednesday, October 29, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 192 town meeting members were checked in.

* * *

The adjourned session of October 29, 1997 was called to order by the moderator at 7:30 p.m. 131 town meeting members were checked in and a quorum was declared.

* * *

ARTICLE 5. Town Bylaw - Rules of Order for Town Meeting - Proposed Rule 14

Voted that the Town amend Article 1 of the Town Bylaws by adding thereto the following new Rule 14:

14. After 10:00 PM, and in the absence of a majority vote of Town Meeting so permitting, no motion under any article other than the article then under debate may be made.

Action taken on 10/29/1997.

ARTICLE 6. Special Act - Nomination of Town Meeting Candidates

Voted YES 91, NO 63 that the Town authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for a Special Act to amend Section 4 of the Representative Town Meeting Act by deleting therefrom the words "not less than ten voters of the precinct in which the candidate resides", such that the amended Article 5 reads as follows:

Nomination of candidates for Town Meeting members to be elected under this act shall be made by nomination papers which shall bear no political designation, but to the name of a candidate for re-election may be added the words "Candidate for Re-election." Nomination papers shall be signed by at least one registered voter of the precinct in which the candidate resides and shall be filed with the Town Clerk at least 49 days before the election. No nomination paper shall be valid in respect to any candidate whose written acceptance is not thereon or attached thereto when filed.

Action taken on 10/29/1997.

ARTICLE 7. Special Act - Town Meeting Vacancies

Voted that the Town authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for a Special Act to amend Section 7 of the Representative Town Meeting Act as follows:

Section 7. In the event of any vacancy in the full number of elected town meeting members from any precinct, the town clerk shall, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the first special town meeting after October 1st but before December 31st, mail written notice of such vacancy to the remaining elected members of the precinct and shall publish said notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town, Nomination papers to fill any vacant seat may be filed by any registered voter of the precinct with the town clerk until the eighth (8th) day following the date of publication. The town clerk shall within seven (7) days thereafter certify the qualified candidates, mailing to the remaining town meeting members in the precinct a copy of such certification together with a written ballot identifying the qualified candidates and the number of vacancies to be filled. The remaining town meeting members of the precinct shall, on or before the seventh (7th) day following said mailing, cause their ballots to be delivered to the town clerk in a sealed envelope. On the first business day following said seventh (7th) day the town clerk shall open the envelopes at a duly noticed public meeting and shall certify the election of those with the largest number of votes, ties to be resolved by lot.

In the event of any vacancy in the full number of elected town meeting members from any precinct which cannot be filled by means of the above mentioned procedure, the remaining elected members of the precinct may choose a successor from among the registered voters thereof. Upon petition therefor, signed by not less than ten town meeting members from the precinct, or if the entire number of town meeting members from said precinct is less than eighteen, by a majority thereof, notice of any vacancy shall be made promptly to the remaining members from the precinct wherein the vacancy or vacancies exist by the town clerk, who shall call a special meeting of such members for the purpose of filling any vacancy. The town clerk shall cause to be mailed to every such member, not less than five days before the time set for the meeting, a notice specifying the object, time and place of the meeting. At the said meeting a majority of the members from such precinct shall constitute a quorum, and they shall elect from their own number a chair and a clerk. The election to fill such vacancy shall be by ballot and a majority of the votes cast shall be required for a choice. The chair and clerk shall count the ballots and shall make a certificate of such election and forthwith file the same with the town clerk, together with a written acceptance by the member or members so elected, who shall be deemed elected and qualified as a town meeting member or members, subject to the right of all town meeting members to judge of the election and qualifications of the members as set forth in section three.

Town meeting members elected pursuant to this section shall serve until the next annual town election.

Action taken on 12/1/1997.

ARTICLE 8. Town Meeting Study Committee Recommendations

Voted that the Town endorse the recommendations of the Town Meeting Study Committee listed in the memorandum dated October 6, 1997 under the heading: The Election Process.

The Election Process

1. Voted that the Moderator write a letter to those Town Meeting members who are absent from 50% or more of the sessions of the Annual Town Meeting or all of the Fall Town Meeting. The letter will include a reminder of the obligations of being a Town Meeting member and an invitation to resign if the obligations cannot be met. (C)
2. Voted that the Town Clerk routinely notify members in a precinct when a vacancy occurs that cannot be filled by an election before the Fall Town Meeting or a special Town Meeting. In addition, the Town Clerk shall initiate the process for filling the vacancy. (D)

Voted unanimously that the Town endorse the recommendations of the Town Meeting Study Committee listed in the memorandum dated October 6, 1997 under the heading: Preparation for Town Meeting.

Preparation for Town Meeting

1. Voted that the school budget be organized and formatted the same way as the municipal budget. (A)

2. Voted that the background material on zoning articles and by laws include the old laws or regulations as well as the proposed changes. (B)
3. Voted that the Select Board provide written commentary on warrant articles. (C)
4. Voted that when there is dissent within or between boards on an article, the written background material delineate the minority positions. (D)
5. Voted that all town committees and the public be routinely notified as the deadline for the submission of warrant articles approaches. (E)
6. Voted that a warrant preview session be instituted. (F)
7. Voted that an effort be made to provide newly elected Town Meeting members with information about the procedures, protocols, and customs of Town Meeting. (G)
8. Voted that the Moderator compile a list of capital items needed for the auditorium to properly accommodate Town Meeting. The list will be given to the Joint Capital Planning Committee and to Town Meeting for their consideration. (H)
9. Voted that the tables with handouts be limited to items relevant to articles before Town Meeting. Each document shall be signed, dated and labeled with the article number. New and old items are on separate tables. All other material shall be placed on a table outside of the meeting room. (I)
10. Voted that selected town officials be present at the time Town Meeting is supposed to begin so that they can respond to questions from Town Meeting members and other citizens of Amherst until a quorum is present. (J)
11. Voted that a cadre of volunteers who are not Town Meeting members handle the sign-in process. (K)

Conduct of Town Meeting

1. DEFEATED. (. . . that whenever an article or motion is available in written form and on the screen, it not be read unless there is legal necessity.) (A)
 2. Voted that if the Moderator considers a question to be relevant to the debate, every effort be made to secure an answer. (B)
 3. DEFEATED. (. . . that the Moderator appoint a parliamentarian who may only be appealed to by the moderator and at his or her sole discretion.) (C)
 4. Voted that time limits on speakers be rigorously enforced. (D)
 5. DEFEATED. (. . . that presentations of articles by town boards not be used as an opportunity for the expression of personal opinion.) (E)
 6. Voted unanimously that Town Meeting members be encouraged to disclose points of personal interest when they rise to speak on an issue. (F)
 7. Voted that, except for initial presentations, board members seated at the front of the hall use the microphones on the tables to comment on articles. (C)
 8. Voted that municipal officials be seated in the front row when articles concerning their departments are under discussion. (H)
 9. Voted that microphones be set up in the aisles so that there will not be a delay as speakers come to the front of the room. (I)
 10. DEFEATED. (. . . that after three consecutive statements on one side of an article, the Moderator call for a speaker on the other side. If none is forthcoming, the meeting proceeds to a vote.) (J)
 11. Voted that the audible signal warning a speaker that he or she is approaching the end of the time limit be eliminated. (K)
- Action taken on 10/29/1997.

10:40 p.m. The meeting voted to adjourn to Monday, November 3, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 170 town meeting members had checked in.

The adjourned session of Monday, November 3, 1997 was called to order by the moderator at 7:45 p.m. 131 town meeting members were checked in and a quorum was declared. The order of articles was stated as follows: Articles 16, 17, 18, 19, & 20, followed by article 7, then articles 9-15.

ARTICLE 9. Transfer of Funds - Unpaid Bills

Voted unanimously that the Town appropriate and transfer \$2,341.47 from Free Cash in the Unreserved Fund Balance of the General Fund to pay unpaid bills of a previous fiscal year.
Action taken on 12/1/97.

ARTICLE 10. Loans for Failed Septic Systems

Voted unanimously that the Town appropriate and transfer \$200,000 for the repair and/or reconstruction of septic systems for the subsurface disposal of sanitary waste and to meet such appropriation authorize borrowing \$200,000 from the State Revolving Fund in accordance with Chapter 111, § 127B 1/2.
Action taken on 12/1/97.

ARTICLE 11. Abandonment of Sewer Easement - University Drive

Voted unanimously that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen in their capacity as Sewer Commissioners to issue an appropriate deed for no monetary consideration to the Slobody Development Corporation or their assigns for an abandoned sanitary sewer easement within property owned by that corporation or their assigns off the west side of University Drive.
Action taken on 12/1/97.

ARTICLE 12. Sewer Extension - Sewer Fund - Baker Street

Voted that the Town appropriate \$50,000 to extend an 8-inch sanitary sewer line approximately 570 feet on Baker Street and to meet such appropriation transfer \$50,000 from the Sewer Fund Surplus.
Action taken on 12/1/97.

ARTICLE 13. Watershed Land Acquisition - Water Fund - Houston Property

Voted unanimously that the Town

- (1) appropriate \$52,500 for the acquisition of approximately 66 acres of property located on West Pelham Road in Shutesbury, known as the Houston purchase, bounded and described as follows (*see legal description attached*), for conservation purposes and for watershed protection purposes; and meet said appropriation as follows: (a) transfer \$42,500 from the Water Fund Surplus, (b) accept a \$5,000 donation from the Kestrel Trust together with \$2,000 already paid by the Kestrel Trust as a down payment toward the purchase, and (c) accept \$3,000 from the Shutesbury Conservation Fund;
 - (2) authorize the receipt of grant funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts "Self-Help Program" (Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 132A, Section 11) toward the project and authorize the Conservation Commission to enter into an agreement or contract with the Commonwealth under said program;
 - (3) authorize the Conservation Commission to manage and control said property in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 8(C); and
 - (4) allocate the projected \$36,750 in Self-Help reimbursement funds as follows: \$32,650 to reimburse the Water Fund Surplus; \$2,000 to reimburse the Kestrel Trust; and \$2,100 to reimburse the Shutesbury Conservation Fund.
- Action taken on 12/1/97.

ARTICLE 14. Street Acceptances - Amherst Woods, Hedgerow Lane and Arbor Way

Voted that the Town establish as town ways and accept the layouts as Town ways of the following streets or any of them, or portions thereof, as laid out by the Board of Selectmen on or before October 24, 1997 and to authorize said Board to take by eminent domain, purchase, or otherwise acquire any fee, easement or other interest in land necessary therefor, no appropriation being required.

OLD FARM ROAD

Being a street of variable width, beginning at the south end of Old Farm Road (a 1975 Town Way); thence running southerly and westerly to a point in the center-of the layout that is located N 64 39'20" E a distance of 249.87 feet from the northeasterly line of the New London and Northern Railroad right-of-

way, including Drain Easements 1 and 2; all as shown in Plan Book 156 Pages 75, 76 and 77 as recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds.

WOODLOT ROAD

Being a street of variable width, beginning at the north end of Woodlot Road (a 1991 Town Way) at station 0+60.12 and running northwesterly about 3515 feet to a flared end at Old Farm Road; including drainage easements over lots 7, 15, 20, 32, 35 and 36; including a revised drainage easements over lots 39 and 40 (reference Plan Book 165 Page 125; including a sewer easement over lot 42 and a pedestrian trail easement over lots 41, 42 and 43; all as shown in Plan Book 139 Page 8, Plan Book 156 Page 77 and Plan Book 169 Pages 82 and 83 as recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds.

WILDFLOWER DRIVE

Being a street of variable width, beginning at the northwest end of Wildflower Drive (a 1991 Town Way) at station 35+64.13; thence running northwesterly about 1991 feet to a flared end at Old Farm Road; including drain easements on lots 153 and 154, and Drainage Easement #3 (1499 square feet more or less); all as shown in Plan Book 139 Page 7 and Plan Book 156 Pages 75 and 76 as recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds.

HEDGEROW LANE

Being a street of variable width, beginning at the west line of North East Street (a public way); thence running westerly about 1070 feet into a cul-de-sac; including a 30 foot wide walking easement of 5445 square feet and a 20 foot wide sanitary sewer easement over lot 10 of 2900 square feet; all as shown in Plan Book 160 Pages 66 and 67 as recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds.

ARBOR WAY

Being a street of variable width, beginning at the west line of North East Street (a public way); thence running westerly about 947 feet into a cul-de-sac; including a drain easement of 5994 square feet over the common area, a drain easement of 5191 square feet over Lot 1, and a 30 foot wide walking easement of 5855 square feet over common area; all as shown in Plan Book 160 Pages 68 and 69 as recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds.
Action taken on 12/1/97.

ARTICLE 15. Economic Opportunity Areas

Requested the Town designate the following areas as Economic Opportunity Areas (EOAs), as provided under M.G.L. Chapter 23A, Sections 3A-3H, for a term of not more than twenty (20) years, for the purpose of providing property tax relief to certified projects located within the EOA, in the form of Tax Increment Financing and/or Special Tax Assessment.)

A) DEFEATED. YES 62, NO 63. (The EOA, to be called the "Belchertown Road EOA," to include those portions of the following properties which fall within the Professional Research Park (PRP) zoning district and are shown on the Official Tax Maps as: 18C-001-020, 18C-24, 18C-26, 18D-2, 18D-38, 18D-001-051, 18D-52, 18D-96, 18D-98.)
Action taken on 12/1/97.

B) DEFEATED. (The EOA, to be called the "Meadow Street EOA," to include those portions of the following property which falls within the Light Industrial (LI) zoning district and is shown on the Official Tax Maps as parcel 4D-8.)
Action taken on 12/1/97.

ARTICLE 16. (Resolution - Parking, Traffic & Environmental Plan to Benefit Amherst Business & Community Interests in the Downtown Area)

Voted "RESOLUTION - PARKING, TRAFFIC & ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN TO BENEFIT AMHERST BUSINESS & COMMUNITY INTERESTS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA

WHEREAS, both business and community interests would be better served by improved management of the existing supply of parking spaces within the downtown area -- as well as by relief from traffic congestion;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Amherst Town Meeting hereby strongly urges the Select Board, to schedule -- an open & public process -- with all due deliberate speed -- whereby a new comprehensive parking, traffic & environmental protection plan is developed and implemented to benefit all Amherst businesses and citizens throughout the downtown area.

It is recommended that the Select Board include the following for consideration.

1. Integrating any significant parking expansion within the upcoming "Visioning Process" and its resulting "Amherst Master Plan" -- so that Town Meeting clearly understands the underlying

relationship between the scale of its parking plant and the "yet-to-be-decided" scale of future development.

2. Multi-site Parking Facilities which emphasize increased "turnover" of cars in existing surface spaces under municipal management.
 3. Leveraging a commitment with owners of private downtown parking lots to put --their supply of under-utilized parking spaces -- under a cooperative private/municipal management agreement to optimize the use and turnover of all available parking spaces for everyone's benefit.
 4. Introduction of permit-controlled, "long-term", clearly-marked parking spaces for residents & business employees on streets surrounding the downtown to "free up" more central downtown parking for shoppers -- without installation of added meters on residential streets where a majority of residents and property owners oppose such metering.
 5. Revised regulations for special permits which now exempt several hundred privileged motorists from paying any meter fees or observing any parking time limits.
 6. Enforced time limits to optimize "turnover" within clearly-marked parking zones.
 7. Workable truck deliveries that will not negatively impact businesses, bicyclists or pedestrians -- nor contribute to traffic congestion.
 8. Administration of Amherst parking so that all of the dozens of interrelated functions within several town departments can be efficiently and centrally coordinated.
 9. More mobile-oriented enforcement of parking regulations utilizing state-of-the-art, hand-held computers that can automatically issue violation notices.
 10. Revision of schedule for parking fines & penalties plus improved collection methods.
 11. Parking data collection to serve the interests of future planning.
 12. Improved scheduling of major seasonal events impacting downtown.
 13. Origin & destination studies for development of plan to relieve and prevent downtown traffic congestion.
 14. Air quality & environmental assessment to determine potential site-specific "triggers" for asthma and other health threats.
 15. Pedestrian interests including: improved walking access to Bangs Community Center from North Pleasant Street...better-defined, better-lit and safer walkways throughout the downtown area...longer-term "walk" signals at street intersections...crosswalk improvements for safety purposes.
 16. Clearly-scheduled bicycling improvements to allow safe and efficient passage throughout the downtown area.
 17. Public transportation that answers the need for short and medium range trips to and from areas surrounding the downtown which now demand the use of motor vehicles.
 18. Simpler, more uniform, more attractive downtown signs for both traffic control as well as parking locations."
- Action taken on 11/3/1997.

ARTICLE 17. Downtown Parking Action Plan

Request that the town adopt the following parking garage-neutral, comprehensive parking action plan for downtown Amherst by voting:

Administrative Action

- A1. Voted YES, 123, NO 69, to refer to the Town Manager. (...request that the town manager designate a town employee as Amherst Parking Coordinator ...)4
Action taken on 11/3/1997.

- A2. Voted unanimously to DISMISS. (... the town manager provide... a written report on parking meter repair and maintenance...)
Action taken on 11/3/1997.
- A3. Voted YES 136, NO 53 to refer to the Parking Commission. (... Select Board promulgate regulations authorizing and directing the town manager to develop and implement... a permit system...)
Action taken on 11/3/1997.
- A4. Voted to refer to the Finance Committee. (... establish a Downtown Improvement Fund...)
Action taken on 11/3/1997.
- A5. Voted unanimously to refer to the Planning Board. (... amend the Zoning By law Section 5.015, Garaging or Parking of Motor Vehicles...)
Action taken on 11/3/1997.

Parking Facility Land Acquisition

- B1. DEFEATED. (... acquire from the Amherst Redevelopment Authority for parking, pedestrian, and other municipal purposes... the tracts of land known as Parcels 60, 333, 224, and 285 of Map 14A of the Town Cadastre located in Boltwood Walk...)
Action taken on 11/3/1997.
- B2. DEFEATED. (... acquire from Mauro Aniello... the tract of land known as Parcel 46 of Map 14A of the Town Cadastre located in Boltwood Walk and comprising 10,000 square feet more or less.)
Action taken on 11/3/1997.

10:15 p.m. The meeting voted to adjourn to Wednesday, November 5, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 207 town meeting members were checked in.

The adjourned session of Wednesday, November 5, 1997 was called to order by the moderator at 7:45 p.m. 125 town meeting members were checked in. Peter Kitchell made a motion at 8:17 p.m. on November 5th to postpone article 19, gave his report, others spoke about the garage and the discussion continued for 2 hours.

10:10 p.m. The meeting voted to adjourn to Wednesday, November 12, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 201 town meeting members had checked in.

The adjourned session of Wednesday, November 12, 1997 was called to order by the moderator at 7:38 p.m. 125 town meeting members checked in and a quorum was declared. At 7:45 p.m. it was voted to postpone further consideration of article 17 until disposition of article 20 and prior to further consideration of article 7.

10:36 p.m. The meeting voted to adjourn to Monday, November 17, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 204 town meeting members had checked in.

The adjourned session of Monday, November 17, 1997 was called to order by the moderator at 7:42 p.m. 125 town meeting members were checked in and a quorum was declared.

10:10 p.m. The meeting voted to adjourn to Wednesday, November 19, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 207 town meeting members had checked in.

The adjourned session of November 19, 1997 was called to order by the moderator at 7:37 p.m. 125 town meeting members were checked in and a quorum was declared.

- B3. DEFEATED. (... to acquire from Jones properties Trust... land... located at the southeast corner of Amity and South Prospect Streets...)
Action taken on 11/19/1997.

10:05 p.m. The meeting voted to adjourn to Monday, December 1, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 197 town meeting members were checked in.

The adjourned session of Monday, December 1, 1997 was called to order by the moderator at 7:45 p.m. 134 town meeting members were checked in and a quorum was declared.

Metering Additional Downtown Streets and Parking Lots

- C1. Voted unanimously to DISMISS. (... \$7,500 to design a plan/Amity Street public parking lot)
Action taken on 12/1/1997.
- C2. Voted unanimously to DISMISS. (... appropriate \$7,500 from Parking Meter Fund for the purpose of installing parking meters on the land described in section B2 above.)
Action taken on 12/1/1997.
- C3. Voted that the Town appropriate \$28,500 from the Parking Meter Receipts Account for the purchase of parking meters to be installed on Boltwood Avenue, Churchill Street, Hallock Street between North Pleasant Street and Pease Place, and on such other public ways as the Select Board shall by their public hearing determine, with the operation of said meters on the named streets to begin no earlier than 9 am and end no later than 5 p.m., and that all meter fees be set at \$.25/hour or less.
Action taken on 12/1/1997.
- C4. Voted YES 76, NO 66 that the Town appropriate \$7,500 from the Parking Meter Receipts Account to design a plan to improve Spring Street between Boltwood Avenue and Churchill Street to allow parking meters to be safely and effectively installed and operated.
Action taken on 12/1/1997.
- C5. Voted that the Town appropriate \$2,500 from the Parking Meter Receipts Account for larger, more visible signs to direct visitors and the public to Amherst Center parking facilities.
Action taken on 12/1/1997.

ARTICLE 18. Exchange of Real Property - Amity Street

Voted to DISMISS. (... Town convey to D.H. Jones Trust a portion of Parcel 215 of Map 14A of the Town Cadastre located on Amity Street in return for Parcel 216 and a portion of Parcel 214 of Map 14A located on South Prospect and Amity Streets, the acquisition of said parcels for public parking and other municipal purposes.)
Action taken on 12/1/1997.

ARTICLE 19. Parking Garage

Voted YES 135 NO 57 (Tally Vote)

A. That the Town raise and appropriate, subject to a guarantee of 75% reimbursement (max. \$3 million) by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts \$4,000,000 for construction of a two-level parking garage (one underground level and one surface level), but designed so as to accommodate a third, above ground level in the future if separately approved by Town Meeting; vehicular and pedestrian ways, incorporating significant public, pedestrian space; and for other municipal purposes in Boltwood Walk; for the acquisition of land and easements necessary for the construction of said garage, and to meet such appropriation the Treasurer be authorized to borrow \$4,000,000 in accordance with M.G.L. Chap. 44, Section 7, Clause 3A, and further to authorize the application for and acceptance of any gifts, bequests, or grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or otherwise and further to authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement for said grants.

B. That the Town authorize the acquisition from the Amherst Redevelopment Authority or its successor by eminent domain, purchase, gift or otherwise, of Parcels 60, 333, 224, and 285 of Map 14A of the Town Cadastre, located in Boltwood Walk and comprising 22,000 square feet more or less, for parking, pedestrian, and other municipal purposes.

C. That the Town authorize the acquisition from Mauro Aniello or their successor by eminent domain, purchase, gift or otherwise, of the easterly portion of Parcel 46 of Map 14A of the Town Cadastre, located in Boltwood Walk and comprising of 10,000 square feet more or less, for parking, pedestrian, and other municipal purposes.
Action taken on 11/19/1997.

ARTICLE 20. Boltwood Place

DEFEATED. YES 95 NO 100 (Tally Vote) (... Town appropriate, subject to a guarantee of a \$3,000,000 reimbursement by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, \$4,800,000 for design and construction of a parking garage...)

B. (... Town authorize the acquisition from the Amherst Redevelopment Authority... Parcels 60, 333, 224, and 285 of Map 14A.

C. (... Town authorize the acquisition from Mauro and Claire Aniello, ... of the easterly portion of Parcel 46 of Map 14A... for parking...)
Action taken on 11/17/1997.

The business of the warrant having been completed the meeting voted to dissolve at 10:45 p.m. 153 town meeting members had checked in.

Attest:

Cornelia D. Como
Town Clerk

* * *

TOWN REFERENDUM
February 3, 1998

In accordance with the Warrant, the polls were opened at 2:00 p.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m. The voters cast their ballots in their respective precincts. The results were as follows:

QUESTION

Do you approve of the motion, stated below, which was made and seconded at the special representative Town Meeting held on October 27 and 29, November 3, 5, 12, 17 and 19, and December 1, 1997 and was approved by a two-thirds tally vote, the vote being 135 in favor and 57 opposed?

A. That the Town raise and appropriate, subject to a guarantee of 75% reimbursement (max. \$3 million) by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts \$4,000,000 for construction of a two-level parking garage (one underground level and one surface level), but designed so as to accommodate a third, above ground level in the future if separately approved by Town Meeting; vehicular and pedestrian ways, incorporating significant public, pedestrian space; and for other municipal purposes in Boltwood Walk; for the acquisition of land and easements necessary for the construction of said garage, and to meet such appropriation the Treasurer be authorized to borrow \$4,000,000 in accordance with M.G.L. Chap. 44, Section 7, Clause 3A, and further to authorize the application for and acceptance of any gifts, bequests, or grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or otherwise and further to authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement for said grants.

B. That the Town authorize the acquisition from the Amherst Redevelopment Authority or its successor by eminent domain, purchase, gift or otherwise, of Parcels 60, 333, 224, and 285 of Map 14A of the Town Cadastre, located in Boltwood Walk and comprising 22,000 square feet more or less, for parking, pedestrian, and other municipal purposes.

C. That the Town authorize the acquisition from Mauro Aniello or their successor by eminent domain, purchase, gift or otherwise, of the easterly portion of Parcel 46 of Map 14A of the Town Cadastre, located in Boltwood Walk and comprising of 10,000 square feet more or less, for parking, pedestrian, and other municipal purposes.

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4A</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10A</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
YES	56	266	135	91	1	135	256	226	384	199	60	2	1811
NO	<u>82</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>212</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>282</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1716</u>
TOTAL	138	477	276	149	2	355	468	423	666	409	162	2	3527

VOTE BY PRECINCTS

<u>Precinct</u>	<u>Ballots Cast</u>	<u>Number Registered</u>	<u>PM Return Time</u>	<u>% Turnout</u>
1	138	1145	8:52	12
2	477	1750	9:56	27
3	276	1377	8:48	20
4	149	478	9:10	31
4A	2	826	9:02	0
5	355	1477	9:10	24
6	468	1945	8:55	24
7	423	1809	8:53	23
8	666	2086	9:25	32
9	409	1731	8:29	24
10	162	706	9:08	23
10A	<u>2</u>	<u>451</u>	9:02	<u>0</u>
	3527	15781		22

The public announcement was made at 9:28 p.m. on February 3, 1998. 3,527 ballots were cast, representing 22% of the 15,781 registered voters. There were 1811 YES votes cast, representing 11.5% of the registered voters. There were 1716 NO votes cast, representing 10.9% of the registered voters.

Representative town meeting's vote of November 19, 1997 was upheld.

Attest:

Cornelia D. Como
Town Clerk

TOWN ELECTION
April 7, 1998

In accordance with the Warrant, the polls were opened at 12:00 noon and closed at 8:00 p.m. The voters cast their ballots in their respective precincts. The results were as follows:

	1	2	3	4	4A	5	6	7	8	9	10	10A	TOTAL
<u>MODERATOR</u> - one year (1)													
Harrison L. Gregg	73	225	135	69	12	114	249	221	349	223	83	16	1769
All Others	1	1	0	0	0	7	0	0	2	0	2	0	13
Blanks	<u>60</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>157</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1324</u>
TOTAL	134	401	211	117	24	278	407	387	593	371	156	27	3106

SELECTMAN - three years (2)

Bryan C. Harvey	51	247	124	76	4	103	207	208	387	214	77	5	1703
Dolly G. Jolly	44	195	102	70	3	82	204	180	325	192	46	4	1447
Margot N. Parrot	54	101	73	21	6	143	150	105	140	94	48	3	938
Hwei-Ling Terri Greeney	68	169	79	42	1	136	148	181	226	160	99	4	1313
Jason J. Vecchio	5	28	9	5	14	12	20	14	9	18	8	21	163
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Blanks	<u>46</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>647</u>
TOTAL	268	802	422	234	48	556	814	774	1186	742	312	54	6212

SCHOOL COMMITTEE - three years (2)

Terry M. Fenstad	17	91	45	19	2	52	85	65	109	58	28	3	574
Barbara J. Love	101	240	122	69	8	178	248	262	375	238	103	9	1953
Myra Ross	68	272	136	80	8	126	238	238	395	264	93	10	1928
Anthony L. Rogers	15	36	41	8	3	42	48	54	98	39	10	6	400
All Others	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Blanks	<u>67</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>1355</u>
TOTAL	268	802	422	234	48	556	814	774	1186	742	312	54	6212

ELECTOR OLIVER SMITH WILL - one year (1)

David Farnham	68	224	129	69	13	131	240	234	357	242	94	15	1816
Blanks	<u>66</u>	<u>177</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1290</u>
TOTAL	134	401	211	117	24	278	407	387	593	371	156	27	3106

JONES LIBRARY TRUSTEE - three years (2)

John L. Roberts	67	226	132	70	8	128	221	224	331	236	89	11	1743
Arthur R. Quinton	71	238	143	54	9	134	225	224	346	241	93	13	1791
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Blanks	<u>130</u>	<u>338</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>292</u>	<u>368</u>	<u>326</u>	<u>509</u>	<u>265</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>2676</u>
TOTAL	268	802	422	234	48	556	814	774	1186	742	312	54	6212

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - five years (1)

Carl W. Seppala	55	163	99	52	4	76	157	199	275	184	47	8	1319
Batya Bauman	40	96	61	21	7	128	117	88	126	106	62	8	860
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Blanks	<u>39</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>924</u>
TOTAL	134	401	211	117	24	278	407	387	593	371	156	27	3106

COUNTY COMMISSIONER - two years (1)

Frieda N. Howards	69	232	132	74	10	138	220	215	365	174	93	15	1737
Blanks	<u>65</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>187</u>	<u>172</u>	<u>228</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1369</u>
TOTAL	134	401	211	117	24	278	407	387	593	371	156	27	3106

COUNTY COMMISSIONER - one year (1)

Mark D. Sherry	61	195	114	55	11	114	198	195	323	149	79	13	1507
Blanks	<u>73</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>222</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1599</u>
TOTAL	134	401	211	117	24	278	407	387	593	371	156	27	3106

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS

<u>Prec. I, three years (8)</u>		<u>Prec. I, three years (8)</u>		<u>Prec. I, three years (8)</u>	
Louis S. Greenbaum	68	Jedd Miller	79	Jacques Andre Laus	63
Zhem Behr	71	Peter W. Jessop	84	@Daniel Nachbar	9
@Jolene K. Hart	10	@Martin Sevoian	7	<u>Prec. I, two years (1)</u>	
				Frances L. Vantreesse	76

<u>Prec. II, three years (8)</u>		<u>Prec. II, three years (8)</u>		<u>Prec. II, three years (8)</u>	
Sandra C. Mullin	156	Sara M. Berger	156	Barbara L. Davis	123
*Joseph B. Perry	72	*Debra M. Phillis	112	*Adeline S. Kennedy	92
*Tanya M. Cushman	68	Theodore Ennis	164	*Albert S. Woodhull	97
Edward R. Kaynor	127	*Van Kaynor	115	*William J. O'Neil	101
Barbara C. Ford	174	*Christopher B. Pile	70	Ronnie M. Janoff-Bulman	146
*Max J. Stosz, Jr.	121	Ellen M. Knox	154		

<u>Prec. III, three years (8)</u>		<u>Prec. III, three years (8)</u>		<u>Prec. III, three years (8)</u>	
Elizabeth N. Hubbard	124	Howard M. Ziff	142	Robert F. Winne	129
Alice H. Allen	140	Howard Sonoda	129	@Robert B. Kusner	11
@Sara L. Ruopp	1	@Elizabeth A. Rowell	1	<u>Prec. III, one year (2)</u>	
(Elizabeth A. Rowell did not accept three year seat)				Joan Saperstan	132

<u>Prec. IV, three years (8)</u>		<u>Prec. IV, three years (8)</u>		<u>Prec. IV, three years (8)</u>	
Jean L. Thompson	83	Fran Wall	79	Jolyon H. Yates	66
Karin Winter	79	Gregg Edward Anderson	84	James M. Eltringham	66
Kenneth W. Samonds	91	@William Geoffrey Shepherd 2		@Theodora B. Shepherd	2
<u>Prec. IV, two years (2)</u>		<u>Prec. IV, one year (3)</u>			
David P. Ahlfeld	72	Mary C. Harraghy	58		
Katera A. Como	83	*+Emilie G. Hamilton	57		
		William Geoffrey Shepherd	59		
		Theodora B. Shepherd	66		

(William Geoffrey Shepherd and Theodora B. Shepherd tied for a three year term and were each elected to a one year term. Theodora B. Shepherd withdrew from the tie and accepted the one year term. William Geoffrey Shepherd accepted the three year term and did not accept the one year term. Emilie G. Hamilton filled the Chapter 117 seat left by William Geoffrey Shepherd)

<u>Prec. V, three years (8)</u>		<u>Prec. V, three years (8)</u>		<u>Prec. V, three years (8)</u>	
Jana Lee Sorge	96	*Timothy J. Maki	69	Jillian Elizabeth Brady	91
Christine A. Kline	111	Kathleen A. Floyd	89	*Amy H. Mittelman	68
*Marilyn J. Rodzwell	82	*+Robert H. Romer	85	*Charles F. Hopkins	45
Barbara A. Laurent	105	Batya Bauman	133	Richard R. Raymond	90
Lyle A. McGeoch	86	<u>Prec. V, two years (1)</u>			
		Nancy L. McConnell	112		
		*Thomas Pelissier	72		

(Robert H. Romer filled a Chapter 117 seat left vacant by Norman Price)

<u>Prec. VI, three years (8)</u>		<u>Prec. VI, three years (8)</u>		<u>Prec. VI, three years (8)</u>	
Naomi R. Yanis	186	Jane E. Bacon	200	Jeffrey D. Blaustein	211
Michael L. Greenebaum	238	Ann F. Greene	206	Silvia R. Brinkerhoff	189
@Richard H. Martin	14	@Francisco Martinez	5	<u>Prec. VI, two years (2)</u>	
<u>Prec. VI, one year (1)</u>				Carol A. Steele	208
Elisa K. Campbell	268			Jonathan Hite	233

<u>Prec. VII, three years (8)</u>		<u>Prec. VII, three years (8)</u>		<u>Prec. VII, three years (8)</u>	
Jean K. Tucker	144	Dolores D. Sutton	212	Janet W. Chevan	175
Robert L. Quinn	188	Helen L. Mottla	140	*+James D. Pitts III	124
*Robert L. Wick	122	Carol A. Lee	149	Walter J. Mullin	129
*Arthur S. Keene	116	Robert S. Anderson	162	*Richard E. Mudgett	119
(Carol A. Lee did not accept the three year term. James D. Pitts III filled the Chapter 117 seat left vacant)					

Prec. VIII, three years (8)
 Thomas R. Asher 292
 Martha Spiegelman 246
 Peter C. Correa 258

Prec. VIII, three years (8)
 Jeffrey F. Hatch 325
 Ralph J. Murphy 283
 Noel Kurtz 348

Prec. VIII, three years (8)
 Mary S. Snyder 295
 Philip E. Petitt, Jr. 244
 Prec. VIII, one year (2)
 Linda S. Cohen 221
 Julia A. Blake 196
 *Jeanne F. Potash 178
 *Irwin Spiegelman 149

Prec. IX, three years (8)
 *Betsy Gut 120
 John L. Roberts 189
 Jan E. Dizard 246
 Carolyn M. Holstein 246

Prec. IX, three years (8)
 Lynda Faye 181
 Glenise I. Silver 154
 Margaret R. Roberts 195
 Prec. IX, one year (1)
 Deborah S. Koch 184

Prec. IX, three years (8)
 David Yaukey 184
 Michael L. Chernoff 237
 *Arnold J. Silver 144

Prec. X, three years (8)
 *James R. Turner 39
 *Wayne A. Howard 64
 *Priscilla C. Parke 65
 Sarah S. Mager 71
 Carolyn S. Bentley 70

Prec. X, three years (8)
 *Sean O. Smith 56
 Marilyn S. Smith 81
 *Richard N. Bentley 63
 Peter F. Schneider 84
 Donald E. Hastings 86

Prec. X, three years (8)
 Phyllis S. Hastings 93
 Marcie Abramson Sclove 81
 *Kenneth R. Mosakowski 50
 Richard E. Sclove 70

* Defeated
 # Tie
 @ Write-in
 + Chapter 117

VOTE BY PRECINCTS

Precinct	Ballots Cast	Number Registered	PM Return Time	% Turnout
1	134	1153	9:17	12
2	401	1761	10:12	23
3	211	1386	9:12	15
4	117	483	9:40	24
4A	24	866	9:30	3
5	278	1483	9:40	19
6	407	1968	9:12	21
7	387	1832	9:33	21
8	593	2100	10:50	28
9	371	1734	9:45	21
10	156	714	9:36	22
10A	27	456	9:30	6
	3106	15936		18

The public announcement was made at 11:30 p.m. on April 7, 1998. 3,106 ballots were cast, representing 18% of the 15,936 voters registered.

Attest:

Cornelia D. Como
 Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

April 29, 30, May 4, 6, 11, 13, 18 and 20, 1998

The meeting was televised by Amherst Community Television and shown on the Government Channel 20.

The 239th Annual Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Harrison Gregg at 7:40 p.m. There were 254 town meeting members. 129 checked in and a quorum was declared. The call and return of the warrant were read by Town Clerk, Cornelia D. Como. The moderator was sworn to the faithful performance of his duties and the newly elected town meeting members were sworn to the faithful performance of their duties by the moderator. Steven Puffer, Jr. was recognized for his 60 years of service as a town meeting member. Harry Brooks, James Scott, Nonny Burack, James Pistrang, Hilda Greenbaum, Fred Hartwell, Edgar Bisson, Roger Wallace and Peter Shea were sworn as tellers.

ARTICLE 1. Reports of Boards and Committees

Voted that the Town hear only those reports of Town officers, the Finance Committee, and any other Town boards or committees which are not available in written form.
 Action taken on 4/29/1998.

ARTICLE 2. Rescind Borrowing Authorization for Parking Garage

DEFEATED. ["To see if the Town will vote to rescind the following borrowing authorization: Article 19, November 19, 1997 - \$4,000,000 for construction of a Parking Garage in Boltwood Walk."]
 Action taken on 4/29/1998.

ARTICLE 3. Parking Garage

DEFEATED. [MOTION #1: I move that the town vote to amend the action taken under Article 19 of the Fall 1997 Special Town Meeting by amending Section A to read as follows (*additions in italic, deletions in strike*):

A. That the Town raise and appropriate, subject to a guarantee of 75 percent reimbursement (max. \$3 million) by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, \$4,000,000 for *design and* construction of a two-level parking garage (one underground level and one surface level), ~~but designed so as to accommodate a third, above ground level in the future if separately approved by Town Meeting,~~ vehicular and pedestrian ways incorporating significant public, pedestrian space, and for other municipal purposes in Boltwood Walk; for the acquisition of land and easements necessary for the construction of said garage, and to meet such appropriation the Treasurer be authorized to borrow \$4,000,000 in accordance with the M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Clause 3, and further to authorize the application for and the acceptance of any gifts, bequests, or grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or otherwise and further to authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of reimbursements for said grants.]

DEFEATED. [MOTION #2: I move that the garage design and development process shall include the following:

- low- and no-cost improvements to existing municipal parking that include, but are not limited to: 1) metering presently unmetered spaces on Boltwood Avenue, Churchill and Hallock Streets; 2) reconfiguring metered on-street and municipal parking lot spaces to provide additional public parking spaces; 3) clearly designating the Town Hall parking lot for public use on weekends and after 5 PM weekdays; and 4) enforcing the prohibition on meter-feeding for Main, Amity, North and South Pleasant Streets;
 - studies to be conducted on a contractual basis by the garage building committee at a time for = 1 - = 3 when the University and the colleges are in session - 1) a block-by-block parking utilization survey of at least one full week's duration, 2) a vehicular origin and destination study of downtown users, 3) a traffic circulation impact study for the garage as designed including conclusions as to the need for, problems associated with, and parking management improvements to accompany construction of a Boltwood Walk parking garage, and 4) a financial feasibility study of the garage as designed, including any future additional level;
 - garage plans providing for: 1) complete and easy access to and through Boltwood Walk for emergency and public safety vehicles, and handicapped vans; 2) off-site, above-ground venting clear of abutting housing of any exhaust collected from the under-ground portion of said garage; and 3) an estimate of construction time, and of the environmental impacts, including the duration of significant noises, that can be expected to occur during the construction and operation of said garage;
 - assigning the parking garage advisory building committee complete responsibility for garage design and construction oversight and decision-making functions, including architect selection.]
- Action taken on 4/29/1998.

ARTICLE 4. Park-and-Ride Facilities

Voted unanimously that the Town request the Select Board to bring to the 1998 Fall Town Meeting a plan and budget for park-and-ride service(s) that would serve both as a parking garage construction mitigation measure and as a trial period for the possible continuation of such service.

Action taken on 4/29/1998.

ARTICLE 5. Authorization for Compensating Balance Accounts

Voted unanimously that the Town accept the provisions of Chapter 44, section 53F of the Massachusetts General Laws, which authorize the Treasurer to enter into written agreements with banking institutions pursuant to which the Treasurer agrees to maintain funds on deposit in exchange for banking services.

Action taken on 4/29/1998.

ARTICLE 6. Optional Tax Exemptions

Voted unanimously that the Town authorize a maximum exemption of 100 percent for taxpayers qualifying for exemption under M.G.L. Ch. 59, Sec. 17D, 22, 37A, and 41C.

Action taken on 4/29/1998.

ARTICLE 7. Transfer of Funds - Unpaid Bills

Voted unanimously that the Town appropriate and transfer \$1,503.48 from Free Cash in the Unreserved Fund Balance of the General Funds to pay unpaid bills of previous fiscal years.

Action taken on 4/29/1998.

ARTICLE 8. Amherst Citizen Police Academy

Voted that the Town support the continuation of the Amherst Citizen Police Academy in the fiscal year 1999.

Action taken on 4/29/1998.

9:52 p.m. The meeting voted to adjourn to Thursday, April 30, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Middle School. 195 town meeting members were checked in.

The adjourned session of April 30, 1998 was called to order by the moderator at 7:40 p.m. 167 town meeting members were checked in and a quorum was declared.

ARTICLE 9. FY 99 Operating Budget

Voted that the Town adopt a comprehensive operating budget for the ensuing year and raise and appropriate money therefor.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Voted unanimously that the Town appropriate \$3,045,851 for General Government, that the salary of the Moderator be fixed at \$10, that the Board of Selectmen at \$300 each, that of the Elector under the Oliver Smith Will at \$20, and that to meet such appropriation \$3,045,851 be raised by taxation.

Action taken on 4/30/1998.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Voted that the Town appropriate \$5,444,757 for Public Safety, that \$4,794,757 be raised by taxation and that \$650,000 be transferred from Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

Action taken on 4/30/1998.

PUBLIC WORKS

Voted that the Town appropriate \$1,571,017 for Public Works and that \$1,456,017 be raised by taxation, that \$110,000 be transferred from Parking Meter Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, and that \$5,000 be transferred from the Sale of Cemetery Lots Account.

Action taken on 4/30/1998.

PLANNING/CONSERVATION/INSPECTIONS

Voted unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate \$792,517 for Planning/Conservation/Inspections.

Action taken on 4/30/1998.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Voted unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate \$960,949 for Community Services.

Action taken on 4/30/1998.

DEBT SERVICE

Voted unanimously that the Town appropriate \$1,168,783 for payment of the Town's General Fund indebtedness and that to meet such appropriation \$1,118,593 be raised by taxation and \$50,190 be transferred from Parking Meter Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

Action taken on 4/30/1998.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Voted that the Town appropriate \$1,427,393 for Library Services, and to meet such appropriation, \$989,697 be raised by taxation, \$73,245 be transferred from the State Aid to Library Account, and \$364,451 be accepted from Jones Library, Inc.

Action taken on 4/30/1998.

9:50 p.m. The meeting voted to adjourn to Monday, May 4, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Middle School. 167 town meeting members were checked in.

The adjourned session of May 4, 1998 was called to order by the moderator at 7:40 p.m. 130 town meeting members were checked in and a quorum was declared.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$12,959,660 for the Elementary Schools.

Action taken on 5/4/1998.

REGIONAL SCHOOL

Voted unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate \$6,995,732 as its proportionate share of the operating and capital costs of the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District.

Action taken on 5/4/1998.

WATER FUND

Voted that the Town appropriate \$1,718,880 for the Water Fund operating budget, \$621,226 for payment of Water Fund debt, \$648,000 for Water Fund capital, that \$2,778,505 be made available from Water Fund revenues of the current year and that \$476,499 be made available from Water Fund Surplus.

Action taken on 5/4/1998.

SEWER FUND

Voted that the Town appropriate \$1,790,750 for Sewer Fund operating budget, \$1,606,838 for payment of Sewer Fund debt, \$522,000 for Sewer Fund capital, that \$2,615,692 be made available from Sewer Fund revenues of the current year and that \$190,544 be made available from Sewer Fund Surplus.

Action taken on 5/4/1998.

SOLID WASTE FUND

Voted that the Town appropriate \$465,443 for Solid Waste Fund operating budgets, \$294,200 for payment of Solid Waste Fund debt, \$83,000 for Solid Waste Fund capital and that \$998,298 be made available from Solid Waste Fund revenues of the current year.

Action taken on 5/4/1998.

GOLF COURSE

Voted that the Town appropriate \$197,703 for the Golf Course Fund operating budget and \$20,000 for Golf Course Capital and that \$227,501 be made available from Golf Course revenues of the current year.

Action taken on 5/4/1998.

ARTICLE 10. Jones Library Open on Sundays

Voted unanimously to **DISMISS**. ["To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$15,000 in order to have the Jones Library open on Sundays."]

Action taken on 5/4/1998.

ARTICLE 11. Reserve Fund

Voted unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate \$85,000 for the Reserve Fund for FY99.

Action taken on 5/4/1998.

ARTICLE 12. Retirement Assessment

Voted unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate \$1,465,191 for the Hampshire County Retirement System assessment.

Action taken on 5/4/1998.

ARTICLE 13. Retirement Reserve

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$150,000 to the Retirement Reserve Fund established in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 5D.
Action taken on 5/4/1998.

ARTICLE 14. Special Services - Amherst Community Television

Voted unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate \$4,000 for Amherst Community Television and related expenses.
Action taken on 5/4/1998.

9:59 p.m. The meeting voted to adjourn to Wednesday, May 6, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Middle School. 179 town meeting members were checked in.

The adjourned session of May 6, 1998 was called to order by the moderator at 7:42 p.m. 186 town meeting members checked in and a quorum was declared. Elisa Campbell was appointed temporary moderator for Article 15 since Harrison Gregg's spouse is director of one of the programs.

ARTICLE 15. Special Services - Human Services

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$130,060 for the following human services:

Amherst Survival Center
Cambodian American Association
Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Helen Mitchell Outreach
Learning for Life
Not Bread Alone
Children's Aid and Family Services
Homesharing - UMASS
Everywoman's Center
Food Bank
Senior Health Services
Amherst Family Center
First Call for Help
Men's Resource Center
School-Age Tuition Assistance Fund

Action taken on 5/6/1998.

ARTICLE 16. Special Services - Congregate Housing

Voted unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate \$45,000 for the development and coordination of support services essential to the tenants of congregate housing, said program to be fully reimbursed by the Department of Elder Affairs.
Action taken on 5/6/1998.

ARTICLE 17. Special Services - Transportation Subsidies

Voted unanimously that the Town endorse no-fare public transit services to the Echo Hill, Cushman, and Orchard Valley areas of the Town and for elderly and disabled special services, and approve the levying of an assessment by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the Town's proportionate share of the cost of such services.
Action taken on 5/6/1998.

ARTICLE 18. Capital Program - Equipment

Voted that the Town

a) appropriate \$669,200 to purchase, repair, and/or install the following new or replacement equipment and be authorized to turn in or sell corresponding items of equipment as part payment and to meet such appropriation raise \$346,008 by taxation, transfer \$55,000 from Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation and transfer \$268,192 from the FY 98 Excess Lottery Receipts Account.

Photocopiers (2)	Sander Body
Fire Computers	Tractor Attachments
Fire Replacement Vehicle	Dump Truck
Fire Pumper	MARS Computer Upgrade
Police Cruisers (4)	Library Computers
Pickup Truck	School Buses
Mower	SPED Van

Voted, *by a two thirds vote, that the Town

b) appropriate \$605,000 for mapping and computers and to meet such appropriation, the Treasurer be authorized to borrow \$190,000 in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 7, Clause 18 for mapping and \$415,000 in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 7, Clause 28 for computers, and further to authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of such bond issue.
(*Acts of 1996, Chapter 448, Sec. 2.)
Action taken on 5/6/1998.

ARTICLE 19. Capital Program - Chapter 90

Voted unanimously that the Town authorize the expenditure of \$569,000 of Chapter 90 funds for the following purposes and further authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement of these funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Dump Truck
Loader
Intersection Design
Drainage Improvements
Road Resurfacing

Action taken on 5/6/1998.

ARTICLE 20. Capital Program - Buildings and Facilities

Voted that the Town appropriate \$680,500 to repair and/or improve the following buildings and facilities and to meet such appropriation raise \$665,500 by taxation and transfer \$15,000 from the Expendable Cemetery Trust Fund Account.

Town Hall Roof Repair
Resurface Parking Lot (Town Hall)
Bangs Community Center - Major Maintenance
Fire Station Repairs
Public Works Renovation
Remove Underground Fuel Tanks (Fire Dept & Fort River)
Renovations (Fort River & Wildwood)
Mark's Meadow Security System
Comprehensive Plan
Planning and Preservation Grants Fund
ADA Improvements - CVS/Kellogg/Boltwood
APR
Open Space
Cemetery Improvements
Groff Park Comfort Station (ADA)
Mill River Comfort Station & Changing Area (ADA)
Mill River Playground
Mill River Court Reconstruction
Bikeway Extension
Conservation Paving Parking Lots

Action taken on 5/6/1998.

ARTICLE 21. Capital Program - Schools

Voted that the Town establish a building committee for the purpose of expanding and renovating the Crocker Farm Elementary School and raise and appropriate \$50,000 for the development of preliminary plans.
Action taken on 5/6/1998.

ARTICLE 22. Land Acquisition - Conservation Land for Water Tank

Voted to **DISMISS**. [To see if the Town will (1) appropriate \$8,000 for the purchase of approx. 9.3 acres off Station Road for conservation and watershed purposes, the land being a portion of Parcel 24B-4 of the Town Cadastre, now or formerly of Jeffrey Honig; (2) to meet such appropriation make \$8,000 available from Water Fund revenues of the current year; (3) authorize the Select Board to acquire said parcel to be managed and controlled by the Conservation Commission under MGL Chap. 40, Sec. 8C; (4) approve the release of approximately 4.25 acres of land off East Pleasant Street, the land being a portion of Parcel 8D-7 of the Town Cadastre, known as the Wildwood Conservation Area, from Conservation status under Chap. 40, Sec. 8C; (5) authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for approval of the above release.]
Action taken on 5/6/1998.

10:00 p.m. The meeting voted to adjourn to Monday, May 11, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Middle School. 186 town meeting members were checked in.

The adjourned session of May 11, 1998 was called to order by the moderator at 7:45 p.m. 135 town meeting members were checked in and a quorum was declared.

ARTICLE 23. Conveyance of Land on West Pomeroy Lane

Voted unanimously that the Town appropriate \$400 for an appraisal of a certain parcel of vacant land on West Pomeroy Lane, shown as Parcel 29, Tax Map 19D, containing 55,556 square feet, more or less, said appraisal to determine the fair market value of said parcel with and without affordable housing restrictions imposed thereon, and to meet such appropriation transfer \$400 from the Water Fund Surplus.
Action taken on 5/11/1998.

ARTICLE 24. Land Acquisition - Hobart Lane

Voted to **DISMISS**. ["To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to condemn as a public nuisance and to acquire from Peter Grandonico or his successors for municipal purposes by purchase, eminent domain, gift or otherwise in fee simple, easement or other interest therein, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 14, and Chapter 79, both as amended, and any other law so authorizing, the tract of land known as Parcel 56 of Map 5C of the Town Cadastre named Gilreath Manor and located at 18 to 40 Hobart Lane and comprising 14 condominium units of 70,000 square feet more or less; and, to raise and appropriate \$700,000 for these purposes, including land and utility surveys, appraisals, and legal costs, and to determine whether such appropriation shall be raised by taxation, by the transfer of available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, and further to authorize the application for and acceptance of any gifts, bequests, or grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or otherwise and further to authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement for said grants."]
Action taken on 5/11/1998.

ARTICLE 25. Stabilization Fund

Voted unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate \$15,000 to the Stabilization Fund.
Action taken on 5/11/1998.

ARTICLE 26. Free Cash

Voted to **DISMISS**. [To see if the Town will appropriate and transfer a sum of money from Free Cash in the Undesignated Fund Balance of the General Fund to reduce the tax levy of the 1999 Fiscal Year.]
Action taken on 5/11/1998.

ARTICLE 27. Rescind Economic Opportunity Areas

DEFEATED. YES 77, NO 97. ["To see if the town will vote to rescind its action under Article 28 of the April 1997 Annual Town Meeting - by which it approved, with a majority vote, a proposal from the Tax Incentive Working Group to designate certain properties on Old Belchertown Road and Wildflower Drive and land between Montague and Sunderland Roads as Economic Opportunity Areas, thus making them eligible for local property tax exemptions."]
Action taken on 5/11/1998.

ARTICLE 28. Zoning Bylaw - Public Notice Revision - Section 10.5 & 11.231

Voted unanimously that the Town amend Sections 10.5 and 11.231 of the Zoning Bylaw by adding the following language:

In addition to the notice requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, the following requirements shall also apply:

In any instance where a Special Permit or Site Plan Review application is filed with the Town and there are tenants or lessees on the property which is the subject of the permit request, the applicant shall provide notice of the permit request to the tenants or lessees of the units by distributing a notice of the request, with the date, time and location of the public hearing, to those tenants or lessees, or by posting notice in one or more common areas such as will likely result in actual notice to tenants or lessees. The applicant shall submit a sworn and notarized letter to the permit granting authority stating that this requirement has been met and by what means.

If said notification requirements have been met to the satisfaction of the permit granting authority, a circumstance where individual tenants or lessees fail to receive notification shall not serve to invalidate the public hearing.

Action taken on 5/11/1998.

ARTICLE 29. Zoning Bylaw - Parking Standard Revision - Section 7

Voted unanimously that the Town amend Sections 7.004, 7.005, 7.01, 7.2, 7.5 and 7.8 by removing the lined (—) language and adding the shaded (■) language, as follows:

A. Replace Section 7.004 and amend Section 7.005, as follows:

7.004 For all retail, office and similar uses:

7.0040 In the B-G, B-VC and B-L (abutting B-G only) districts, and on any lot within a COM District that abuts a B-VC or R-VC District or is within or abuts a National Historic Register District - 3.3 parking spaces per 1,000 square feet of gross first floor area, plus 2.5 spaces per 1000 square feet of GFA (gross floor area), exclusive of storage space, on all other floors.

7.0041 In the B-L and COM Districts (exclusive of those areas cited in 7.0040) and the OP, PRP and LI Districts, the parking requirement shall be the sum of the following:

3.3 spaces/1,000 sq. ft. for the first 10,000 sq. ft. of GFA; plus 2.5 spaces/1,000 sq. ft. for GFA between 10,001-12,500 sq. ft.; plus 2.0 spaces/1,000 sq. ft.

7.005 For all other permitted uses, including veterinary establishments, day nurseries, farm stands, open lots sales or storage yards, building trades establishments, storage or distribution plants, office uses under Section 3.360, and all other commercial uses, adequate parking spaces to accommodate under normal conditions the cars of occupants, employees, members, customers, clients, and visitors to the premises.

B. Amend Section 7.01 as follows:

SECTION 7.0

7.01 Except in the Office Park (OP), Professional Research Park (PRP) and Light Industrial (LI) Districts, off-street parking spaces required herein shall be provided either on the lot with the principal use, or on any other associated premises within 800 feet. In the Office Park, OP, PRP and LI Districts, all required parking shall be contained within the Office Park, OP, PRP and LI Districts.

C. Replace Section 7.2, Common Facilities, with the following new section:

SECTION 7.2 SHARED OR LEASED PARKING

7.20 Parking spaces required for one use shall not be considered as providing the required facilities for any other use, except as hereinafter provided. Any existing parking above 120% of parking otherwise required for all uses on a property may be shared or leased by right. Where existing parking spaces are more than 100% but less than 120% of parking otherwise required for all on-site uses, applicants for a Site Plan Review approval or Special Permit may request to share and/or lease the parking spaces, based on the following conditions:

7.200 Shared Parking: Where it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the permit granting authority that one or more of the following conditions is met:

7.2000 Parking spaces to be shared represent the difference between peak parking needs generated by on-site uses occurring at different times. This may include reductions in parking use resulting from employees, tenants, patrons or other parking users of the site being common to and shared by more than one different use on the site, and/or,

7.2001 Parking spaces to be shared represent the difference between current levels of peak parking utilization and anticipated lower future levels of peak parking utilization, said difference to be generated in whole or in part by a parking management plan approved by the permit granting authority. Said plan shall include and implement measures such as car and van pooling, bicycling and public transit. The permit granting

authority may require periodic documentation of reductions in parking utilization realized as a result of the parking management plan.

7.201 Leased Parking: In the B-G, B-VC, B-L, COM and R-VC Districts the lease of spaces for on- or off-site uses shall be by Site Plan Review, unless otherwise required. In the R-G, R-N, R-F, R-O and R-LD districts, the lease of more than two existing parking spaces shall require a Special Permit, unless requested as part of a Site Plan Review application for an associated use on the property. Any lease of parking spaces for on- or off-site uses may only be permitted under the following conditions:

7.2010 The parking is suitably located in the neighborhood in which it is proposed, as deemed appropriate by the permit granting authority.

7.2011 Adequate and appropriate facilities, including but not limited to appropriate paving, landscaping, screening, lighting, curbing or wheel stops, are provided for the proper operation of the proposed shared/leased parking. Special attention shall be paid to ensuring safe vehicular circulation on the site and at the intersection with abutting streets.

7.2012 The permit granting authority may require the preparation and submittal of a study to provide evidence of parking utilization levels.

D. Amend Section 7.5 as follows:

SECTION 7.5 PARKING FOR ACCESSORY USES

For regulations governing parking associated with accessory uses, see Section 5.15, Garaging or Parking of Motor Vehicles.

E. Amend Section 7.8 as follows:

SECTION 7.8 WAIVERS

7.80 Any section or subsection of Article 7.0, Parking Regulations may be waived or modified by the permit granting authority for compelling reasons of safety, aesthetics or design.

7.81 Parking space requirements under Section 7.0 may be modified when one or more of the following conditions are met to the satisfaction of the permit granting authority:

7.810 Peak parking needs generated by on-site uses occur at different times.

7.811 A significant number of employees, tenants, patrons or other parking users of the site are common to and shared by more than one use on the site.

7.812 A parking management plan approved by the permit granting authority is implemented with occupancy of the building or buildings. Said plan shall include the implementation of such measures as car and van pooling, bicycling and public transit use sufficient to reduce the need for parking. The permit granting authority may require periodic documentation of reductions in vehicle trips and parking utilization as a result of the parking management plan.

Action taken on 5/11/1998.

9:55 p.m. The meeting voted to adjourn to Wednesday, May 13, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Middle School. 188 town meeting members were checked in.

The adjourned session of May 13, 1998 was called to order by the moderator at 7:48 p.m. 130 town meeting members checked in and a quorum was declared.

ARTICLE 30 Zoning Bylaw - Phased Growth Bylaw Revision

Voted by a two-thirds vote to amend Article 14, Phased Growth, of the Amherst Zoning Bylaw by deleting the lined (—) language, adding the shaded (■) language, and rearranging and renumbering subsections, as follows:

A. Amend Section 14.0, Intent & Purpose, as follows:

SECTION 14.0 INTENT & PURPOSE

The purpose of this Article is to ensure that growth occurs in an orderly and planned manner that allows the Town time for preparation to develop and maintain high quality municipal services for an expanding residential population while allowing a reasonable amount of additional residential growth during those preparations. The citizens of Amherst insist on, have pride in, and enjoy a reputation for such high quality and reliable municipal services, and several key municipal services, including water, human services and schools, are currently or may soon be under considerable strain.

This Article will enhance the Town's ability to provide services that keep pace with relate the timing impacts of residential development to the Town's ability to provide services. In addition, this Article also proposes to encourage certain types and patterns of residential growth which reflect the values of the Town as previously expressed in both policies and appropriations.

B. Delete the text of Section 14.10 (shown below), and renumber the remaining subsections of Section 14.1, Regulations, accordingly.

14.10 Beginning on the effective date of this Article, and continuing for ten calendar years, no building permit for a new residential unit or units shall be issued unless in accordance with the regulations of this Article.

C. Amend the portion of Section 14.13 shown below, as follows:

14.13 For the purposes of this Article, a single building lot that is to be sold as part of a transaction that will preserve a tract of land five acres or larger three acres or larger for open space preservation purposes and/or five acres or larger for farmland preservation purposes, may be exempted from the Planned Growth Rate (Section 14.2) and Development Schedule (Section 14.3). The land to be preserved shall be protected from development by an Agricultural Preservation Restriction, Conservation Restriction, dedication to the Town, or other similar mechanism that will ensure its protection.

D. Amend Section 14.3, Development Schedule, as follows:

SECTION 14.3 DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

Building permits for new dwelling units shall be authorized only in accordance with the following schedule:

Number of New Units in Development	Dwelling Units/Year*
1 - 3	100% 50%
4 - 10	up to 50% 45%
11 - 20	up to 33% 40%
21 - 40	up to 25%
41+	up to 20%

*Percent of units in the development for which building permits may be authorized each year.

E. Amend Section 14.4, Modifications to Schedule, as follows:

SECTION 14.4 MODIFICATIONS TO SCHEDULE

The following modifications to the development schedule found in Section 14.3 shall be allowed by the Planning Board (for Definitive Subdivisions/Form A Subdivisions/Cluster Subdivisions Special Permits/Site Plan Review) or Zoning Board (for Special Permits) as part of the approval of any development. Points assigned in each category are to be cumulatively totaled to determine the modification to the schedule based on the MODIFICATION TO SCHEDULE TABLE found in Section 14.47.

14.41 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

14.410 Any development which includes 25% or more of its units for low and/or moderate income people and which is subsidized by federal, state or local programs, or proposed by the Amherst Housing Authority, or by a non-profit or limited dividend partnership, or any development which includes non-subsidized

housing units priced to be affordable to people whose income is equal to or less than 120% of the median income for Amherst and which provides that the mix of affordable and market rate housing built in any one year is equivalent to the overall mix for the entire development, and which further provides that resale restrictions are established by the developer which ensure that the affordable units remain affordable for a period of forty years, shall be exempt from the Planned Growth Rate in Section 14.2 and shall be allowed in accordance with the following schedule:

Number of New Units Dwelling Units/Year

1-50	total units	100%
51-100	total units	up to 50%
100+	total units	up to 33%

All market rate units within the development shall count toward the 250 units in the 730 consecutive day period.

Points
Assigned

30 pts.

- 14.411 Any development that meets the criteria found in Section 14.410, but which includes 10% - 24% of its units for low and moderate income people. 20 pts.

14.42 VILLAGE CENTER & MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT

14.420	Any development or conversion within the General Business (B-G) and the abutting Limited Business (B-L) districts, or within the General Residence (R-G), Village Center Business (B-VC) or Village Center Residence (R-VC) districts.	30 pts.
14.421	Any development or conversion within 1,000 feet of said districts.	20 pts.
14.422	Any use under Section 3.325 within the COM District.	15 pts.
14.423	Any use under Section 3.325 within the B-G, B-L, B-VC or R-VC District.	10 pts.

14.43 OPEN SPACE/FARMLAND

- 14.430 Provision of open space/parkland, as part of any development, which meets the criteria in Section 4.344 and 4.382.
- Open space consisting of at least 2,000 sq. ft. of usable land per dwelling unit. 5 pts.
- Open space consisting of at least 4,000 sq. ft. of usable land per dwelling unit. 10 pts.
- Open space consisting of at least 6,000 sq. ft. or more of usable land area per dwelling unit. 15 pts.
- 14.431 Protection and retention of farmland according to the following impacts on working farms:
- Development on agricultural land, defined as land classified prime, unique or of state and local importance by the USDA SCS or land characterized by active agricultural use as defined by Chapter 61A of the Mass. General Laws. -30 pts.

In the Farmland Preservation (FP) District, retention and preservation of agricultural land, as a percentage of the total area of the proposed development, under permanent agricultural restriction.

2 pts./5% of total project area protected (max. 30 pts.)

Provision of a 100-foot buffer zone, including a fence and screening vegetation, from the property boundary of a working farm.

5 pts.

14.44 AQUIFER PROTECTION

Development on the Aquifer Recharge Protection Overlay District:

- Average lot size one-half acre or less, no public sewer. -30 pts.
- Average lot size more than one-half acre, no public sewer. -15 pts.
- Average lot size one acre or less, public sewer. - 5 pts.
- Average lot size more than one acre, public sewer. 0 pts.

14.45 CLUSTER

Any development which is constructed under the cluster provisions of Section 4.3 of the Zoning Bylaw. For any development which includes both cluster lots and standard lots, the twenty 30 points shall be pro-rated based on the percentage of cluster lots to total lots in the development.

20 pts.
30 pts.

14.46 PURD

Any development which is constructed under the PURD provisions of Section 4.4 of the Zoning Bylaw.

12 pts.
30 pts.

14.47 OTHER

The Planning Board (Definitive Subdivisions/Form A Subdivisions/Cluster Subdivision Special Permits/Site Plan Review) and Zoning Board of Appeals (Special Permits) may grant up to a total maximum of 15 30 additional points or may deduct up to a total maximum of 15 30 points based on, and with due consideration to the following:

- 14.470 Improvements or contributions which will allow Ability of the Town to adequately serve the proposed development with streets, utilities, drainage, educational and protective services and other public services and facilities such as childcare, health care, elder services, disabled services, recreation, the arts, transportation or water conservation. These need not occur on-site, but may take the form of contributions or improvements to off-site infrastructure.
- 14.471 The amelioration of other development impacts, such as the development of lower densities than otherwise permitted in the outlying areas of the town i.e., the R-N District (within the FP and ARP overlay districts) and the R-O and R-LD districts, or the preservation of natural, or agricultural, historic, archeological or cultural resources, significant street or shade trees and scenic views.
- 14.472 Provision of housing needs for diverse population groups including, but not limited to, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Special consideration may be given to the scheduling of developments that include attached units or apartments to meet these needs.
- 14.473 Commitments already made in the development schedules for approved developments.

14.474 Site design which responds to, incorporates and protects natural features such as vegetation, topography, water courses and views, or which is designed to respond to, preserve and/or enhance the character of the neighborhood.

14.475 Site design which maximizes energy efficiency including, but not limited to, passive and active solar energy.

14.476 Provision of walking, bicycle or bridle paths or trails on-site, including consideration of links to off-site paths.

14.48 DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE MODIFICATION TABLE

Points accumulated under Sections 14.411 14.410 through 14.466 14.476 shall be totaled and the total shall modify the Development Schedule in Section 14.3 according to the following table.

[DELETE THE EXISTING TABLE AND REPLACE IT WITH THE FOLLOWING NEW TABLE]

Dwelling Units/Year*			
Point Total	Developments of 1-4 units	Developments of 5-12 units	Developments of 13+ units
≤60	20%	15%	10%
-50 to -59	25%	20%	15%
-40 to -49	30%	25%	20%
-30 to -39	35%	30%	25%
-20 to -29	40%	35%	30%
-10 to -19	45%	40%	35%
-1 to -9	50%	45%	40%
0 to 9	60%	50%	45%
10 to 19	70%	55%	50%
20 to 29	80%	60%	55%
30 to 39	90%	70%	60%
40 to 49	100%	80%	70%
50 to 59	100%	90%	80%
60 to 69	100%	100%	90%
70+	100%	100%	100%

* Unit counts/year including fractions shall, if the fractional portion is equal to 0.5 or greater, be rounded up to the nearest whole number; and, if the fractional portion is less than 0.5, shall be rounded down to the nearest whole number (examples: 1.8 = 2 units; 3.2 = 3 units).

(*Acts of 1996, Chapter 448, Sec. 2.)
Action taken on 5/13/1998.

ARTICLE 31. Town Bylaw - Rescind Applications of Recombinant DNA Technology Bylaw

Voted unanimously to **DISMISS** [To see if the Town will rescind the Applications of Recombinant DNA Technology bylaw, enacted by Town Meeting on October 23, 1978, in Article 3 of the Town Bylaws.]
Action taken on 5/18/1998.

ARTICLE 32. Smoking Ban

Voted that the Town support the Board of Health's smoking regulations, encourage citizens to support Amherst businesses that may be affected by such regulations, and support efforts to enact uniform General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to regulate smoking in public places.
Action taken on 5/13/1998.

ARTICLE 33. Postering

Voted that the Town declare Amherst a poster friendly community, which discourages poster bans, bars, limitations, prohibitions, restraints and the untimely removal of posters.
Action taken on 5/13/1998.

10:05 p.m. The meeting voted to adjourn to Monday, May 18, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Middle School. 163 town meeting members had checked in.

The adjourned session of May 18, 1998 was called to order by the moderator at 7:43 p.m. 128 town meeting members checked in and a quorum was declared.

ARTICLE 34. Access to Recycling Center

DEFEATED YES 48, NO 99. [“To see if the town will vote to amend the Town By-laws to include the following: No town board, committee, or official shall bar, restrict, or condition access to the recycling area of the town's landfill, except that such guarantee of access shall not affect the making or enforcement of reasonable regulations denying unpermitted access to the waste disposal area of the landfill, or restricting the time and manner of access to "the take or leave it" and "book exchange" sections of the landfill's recycling center, or the issuing of trespass notices to those who repeatedly flaunt such regulations or engage in disorderly conduct upon the premises.”]
Action taken on 5/18/1998.

ARTICLE 35. Resolution - Union Town

Voted the following resolution:

Whereas, the Amherst Representative Town Meeting has by resolution recognized and declared the town of Amherst, Massachusetts, to be a union town;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Amherst Representative Town Meeting calls upon Amherst employers, public and private, to accept without resort to unfair or coercive labor practices the right of their employees to organize and seek recognition as a union under state and federal laws; and,

Be It Also Resolved, that the Amherst Representative Town Meeting calls upon Amherst employers, public and private, to bargain collectively in a timely and good faith manner with employee unions; and,

Be It Further Resolved, that the Town Clerk of the Town of Amherst be directed to mail a written copy of this resolution and the Amherst Representative Town Meeting's action thereon to: the Amherst Chamber of Commerce, the Presidents of Amherst and Hampshire Colleges, the President of the University of Massachusetts and the Chancellor of University's Amherst campus, Acting Governor Paul Cellucci, Senate President Thomas Birmingham and State Senator Stanley Rosenberg, Speaker of the House Thomas Finneran and State Representative Ellen Story.
Action taken on 5/18/1998.

ARTICLE 36. Resolution - University Apartments

DEFEATED YES 52, NO 86. [“To see if the town will vote the following resolution:

Whereas, the Town of Amherst participated in the Regional Commission on Affordable Housing Needs of Academic Communities, otherwise known as the Rosenberg Commission, whose January 1990 Final Report: 1) observed that "many local landlords, developers, and home owners have ... profited directly" from the impact of "UMass-affiliated households ... which boost housing prices" and result in "market conditions [that] adversely impact the University's ability to recruit faculty and students" (p. 93); 2) recognized the University's commitment to rehabilitate North Village and University Apartments (p. 85); and 3) recommended "that UMass should immediately initiate visible and effective efforts to house more of its own students," in part by construction of "up to 500 new apartments to serve students with families and graduate students" (p. 107).

Whereas, the financial status of graduate and undergraduate students with children or other dependents at the Amherst campus of the University of Massachusetts has deteriorated relative to that of other University students, in part because of actions taken by the federal and state government relative to the availability of affordable housing, and also in part because the Town of Amherst has been barred from enforcing its rent review statute; and,

Whereas, because of fiscal constraints, the University has been unable to fulfill its intention to rehabilitate University Apartments or to implement other recommendations proposed in the Regional Commission on Affordable Housing Needs of Academic Communities' Final Report;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Amherst Representative Town Meeting requests our representatives to the General Court to sponsor, support, obtain passage by the legislature, and the approval of the governor for a targeted appropriation of sufficient size to provide for the rehabilitation of University Apartments on the campus of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst for use as University family housing; and,

Be It Further Resolved, that the Town Clerk of the Town of Amherst be directed to mail a written copy of this resolution and the Amherst Representative Town Meeting's action thereon to: William Bulger, President of the University of Massachusetts, David Scott, Chancellor of University's Amherst campus, Acting Governor Paul Cellucci, State Senate President Thomas Birmingham and State Senator Stan Rosenberg, Speaker of the State House of Representatives Thomas Finneran and State Representative Ellen Story.”]

Action taken on 5/18/1998.

10:03 p.m. The meeting voted to adjourn to Wednesday, May 20, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Middle School. 164 town meeting members were checked in.

* * *

The adjourned session of May 20, 1998 was called to order by the moderator at 7:45 p.m.. 130 town meeting members were checked in and a quorum was declared.

* * *

ARTICLE 37. Sand Hill Road

Voted, *by a two thirds vote, that the Town

(a) discontinue and abandon such portion of the old town way adjacent to Sand Hill Road, a combination 1884 county layout and 1794 town way as may cross any portion of the property owned by Walter E. Sands and Kathleen St. John as more particularly described in a deed to Kathleen St. John and Walter E. Sands from Thomas M. Carhart and May A. Carhart dated October 3, 1986 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 2824, Page 343 and further:

(b) Authorize the transfer of the care, custody and control of all town land within the area described by said deed as recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 2824, Page 343 held for highway purposes to the Selectboard for the purposes of conveying by release deed without covenants for no consideration to Walter E. Sands and Kathleen St. John or their successors and assigns; and

(c) Authorize and direct the Selectboard to convey by release deed to Walter E. Sands and Kathleen St. John or their successors and assigns, with out covenants for no consideration all right, title and interest in and to any portion of said property as described in said deed recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 2824, Page 343.

(*Acts of 1996, Chapter 448, Sec. 2.)

Action taken on 5/20/1998.

ARTICLE 38. Town Hall Renovation Financial Report

DEFEATED. ["To see if the town will vote to require that the Select Board direct the town manager to prepare and distribute to all town meeting members a full and complete financial report on the Town Hall renovation including but not limited to:

- a. a fully itemized breakdown by fiscal year for architectural services;
- b. an itemized breakdown of all costs associated with the design and construction of the manager/finance director's mezzanine office area, including - additional redesign and construction costs for the second floor layout, demolition of the theater attic, contractor penalties or offsetting accommodations related to time lost because of the redesign process or to changes in construction plans/specifications, installation of a fire pump system, and the nature, extent, and value of any services, "volunteer" or otherwise, provided by town employees;
- c. an itemized breakdown of FY 96, FY 97, and FY 98 operating budget appropriations used to pay for Town Hall renovation expenses including - employee regular time or overtime spent on demolition or construction, the purchase of equipment or furnishings, moving out and back, telephone and utility transfers, and so forth;
- d. an itemized accounting of the purpose, cost or saving, and approval process for every change order to the as-bid Town Hall renovation plans advertised in the spring of 1996."]

Action taken on 5/20/1998.

ARTICLE 39. Representative Town Meeting Act and Town Manager Act

Voted that the Town authorize the Moderator to appoint a committee or committees to review the provisions of Amherst's Representative Town Meeting Act and Town Manager Act, including, but not limited to, those contained in Section 8 of the Representative Town Meeting Act (so-called referenda), and those contained in Section 11 of the Town Manager Act ("Powers and Duties of the Town Manager"), said committee or committees to report to Town Meeting its/their recommendations for amendments and for the appropriate method of seeking approval of those amendments.

Action taken on 5/20/1998.

ARTICLE 40. Saturday Legal Municipal Holidays

Voted that the Town ratify the long-standing custom and policy of prior town meetings by determining, in accordance with Chapter 41, Section 110A, and Chapter 4, Section 9, of the Massachusetts Laws, that Saturday shall be considered legal holidays for the purpose of transacting business with municipal offices.

Action taken on 5/20/1998.

ARTICLE 41. Special Act - Amend Representative Town Meeting Act

Voted to **REFER** to the review committee to be appointed under article 39. ["To see if the Town will vote to request the Select Board to seek a special act of the Legislature to amend further Amherst's Representative Town Meeting Act, Chapter 10 of the Acts of 1936, as amended, in substantially the following form:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 8 of Chapter 10 of the Acts of 1936 is hereby amended by inserting before the word "Sundays", in the second sentence, the words:- Saturdays and.

SECTION 2. Section 8 of Chapter 10 of the Acts of 1936 is hereby further amended by striking out the words "two o'clock in the afternoon" in the fourth sentence, and inserting in place thereof the words: - seven o'clock in the morning.

SECTION 3. Section 8 of Chapter 10 of the Acts of 1936 is hereby further amended by striking out, in the seventh sentence, after the word "meeting", the words: - but no action of the representative town meeting shall be reversed unless at least twenty per cent of all the registered voters shall so vote. The existing comma after the word "meeting" shall be replaced with a period.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage."]

Action taken on 5/20/1998.

ARTICLE 42. Amend Representative Town Meeting Act

Voted to **REFER** to the review committee to be appointed under article 39.

[I move that the town vote to request that the Select Board file with the General Court a request for a special act amending Amherst's Representative Town Meeting Act to read substantially as follows, including therein the right to vote simultaneously to repeal the town's Town Manager Act: [additions to the language of either act in *italic*, deletions in ~~strike~~, additions to the text of the warrant article in Lucinda Bright]

Article I - the Representative Town Meeting

Section 1. Powers of Representative Town Meeting. The town of Amherst shall continue to have the capacity to act through and be bound by it town meeting members, who shall, when convened from time to time, as herein provided, constitute representative town meetings; and the representative town meeting shall exercise exclusively, so far as will conform to the provisions of this act *as amended*, all powers vested in the municipal corporation.

Action in conformity with all the provisions of law now or hereafter applicable to the transaction of town affairs in town meeting, shall, when taken by an representation town meeting in accordance with the provisions of this act, have the same force and effect as if such action had been taken in a town meeting open to all the voters of the town as organized and conducted before the establishment of representative town government.

Section 2. Election and Terms of Office of Representative Town Meeting Members. The registered voters in every precinct shall, at the first annual town election held after the establishment of such precinct, and the registered voters of any precinct affected by any revision of precincts at the first annual town election following such revision, conformable to the laws relative to elections not inconsistent with this act *as amended* elect by ballot the number of registered voters other than the officers designated in ~~section three~~ herein and in the by-laws of the town as town meeting members at large, ~~provided for in the first sentence of this section,~~ to be town meeting members of the town.

The first third, in the order of votes received, of members so elected shall serve three years, the second third in such order shall serve two years, and the remaining third in such order shall serve one year from the day of the annual town ~~meeting election~~; and thereafter, except as is provided herein, at each annual town election the registered voters of each precinct shall, in like manner, elect, for a term of three years, one-third of the number of elected town meeting members to which such precinct is entitled, and shall at each such election fill for the unexpired terms or terms any vacancy or vacancies then existing in the number of elected town meeting members in such precinct.

In case of a tie vote affecting the division into thirds, as aforesaid, the members ~~elected from the precinct at the same election, other than those whose terms of office are affected by~~ such tie vote, shall determine *by lot* which members receiving such tie vote shall serve for the longer and which for the shorter term. In the case of a tie vote affecting the election of town meeting members in any precinct otherwise than as to term of office, the members elected from such precinct at the same election shall by ballot determine which of the voters receiving such tie vote shall serve as town meeting members from such precinct.

The terms of office of all elected town meeting members from every precinct revised as aforesaid shall cease upon the election hereinbefore provided of their successors. The town clerk shall, after election of town meeting members, forthwith notify each *and every* such member by mail of ~~his~~ *their* election.

Section 3. Membership of Representative Town Meeting. Any representative town meeting held under the provisions of this act as amended, except as otherwise provided herein, shall be limited to the town meeting members elected under section two by precinct, together with the following members at large, namely: the moderator, the town clerk, the selectmen members of the select board, the members of the school committee, the chairman of the finance committee, and such other town meeting members at large as may be provided for in the by-laws without being subject to section thirty-two of chapter forty of the general laws. Any elected town meeting member who become by appointment or election one of the officers designated as town meeting members at large shall, upon such appointment or election, cease to be an elected town meeting member.

Section 4. Nomination of Candidates for Representative Town Meeting. Nomination papers shall be signed by not less than ten voters of the precinct in which the candidate resides, and shall be filed with the town clerk at least 28 days before the election. No nomination papers shall be valid in respect to any candidate whose written acceptance is not thereon or attached thereto when filed prior to said filing deadline.

Section 5. Non-partisan Designation of Candidates. Nomination of candidates for town meeting members to be elected under this act as amended shall be made by nomination papers which shall bear no political designation, but to the name of a candidate for re-election may be added the words "Candidate for Re-election."

Section 6. Resignations and Filling of Vacancies. A town meeting member may resign by filing a written resignation with the town clerk, and such resignation shall take effect on the date of such filing. A town meeting member who removes from the town or whose voter registration status becomes inactive and who fails to attend an entire town meeting shall cease to be a town meeting member, and an elected town meeting member who removes from one precinct to another may serve only until the next annual town election.

In the event of any vacancy in the full number of elected town meeting members from any precinct, the town clerk shall, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the first special town meeting after October 1st but before December 31st, mail written notice of such vacancy to the remaining elected members of the precinct and shall publish said notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the town. Nomination papers to fill any vacant seat may be filed by any registered voter of the precinct with the town clerk until the eighth (8th) day following the date of publication. The town clerk shall within seven (7) days thereafter certify the qualified candidates, mailing to the remaining town meeting members in the precinct a copy of such certification together with a written ballot identifying the qualified candidates and the number of vacancies to be filled. The remaining town meeting members of the precinct shall, on or before the seventh (7th) day following said mailing, cause their ballots to be delivered to the town clerk in a sealed envelope. On the first business day following said seventh (7th) day the town clerk shall open the envelopes at a duly noticed public meeting and shall certify the election of those with the largest number of votes, ties to be resolved.

In the event of any vacancy in the full number of elected town meeting members from any precinct which cannot be filled by means of the above-mentioned procedure, the remaining elected members of the precinct may choose a successor from among the registered voters thereof. Upon petition therefor, signed by not less than ten town meeting members from the precinct, or if the entire number of town meeting members from said precinct is less than eighteen, by a majority thereof, notice of any vacancy shall be made promptly to the remaining members from the precinct wherein the vacancy or vacancies exist by the town clerk, and he who shall call a special meeting of such members for the purpose of filling an vacancy. He The town clerk shall cause to be mailed to every such member, not less than five days before the time set for the meeting, a notice specifying the object, time and place of the meeting. At the said meeting a majority of the members from such precinct shall constitute a quorum, and they shall elect from their own number a chairman and a clerk. The election to fill such vacancy shall be by ballot and a majority of the votes cast shall be required for a choice. The chairman and the clerk shall count the ballots and shall make a certificate of such election and forthwith file the same with the town clerk, together with a written acceptance by the members or members so elected, who shall thereupon be deemed elected and qualified as a town meeting member or members, subject to the right of all town meeting members to judge of the election and qualifications of the members as set forth in section three.

Town meeting members elected pursuant to this section shall serve until the next annual town election.

Section 7. Districting of Precincts for the Representative Town Meeting. Other than the officers designated herein in section three and in the by-laws of the town as town meeting members at large, the representative town meeting membership shall in each precinct consist of the largest number divisible by three which will admit of a representation thereof in the approximate proportion which the number of registered voters therein bears to the total number of registered voters on the first day of January next preceding the election, and which will cause the total elected membership to be as nearly two hundred and forty as may be.

Every ten years, upon receipt of the final results of the decennial federal census, the select board shall appoint a districting board composed of nine members from diverse areas of the town, of which the town clerk or the town clerk's designee shall be a non-voting member ex-officio. The Districting Board shall divide the territory of the town into not less than five or more than eight precincts, each of which shall be plainly designated, and shall contain not less than two hundred and fifty registered voters. The precincts shall be so established as to consist of compact and contiguous territory with numbers of inhabitants as nearly equal as possible, to and be bounded as far as possible by the center line of known streets and ways or by other well defined limits.

Within ten days after any establishment or revision of the precincts, the districting board shall file a final report of their doings with the town clerk, the registrars of voters and the assessors-select board, with a map or maps or description of the precincts as established or revised from time to time, with the names and residences of the registered voters numbers of inhabitants therein. Whenever the precincts are established or revised Upon receipt of the final report of the districting board, the town clerk shall forthwith give written notice thereof to the state secretary, stating the number and designation of precincts, the number of inhabitants of each precinct and such other information as the state secretary shall by law require. The division of the town into voting precincts and a Any revision of such precincts shall take effect upon the date of the filing of the report thereof by the districting board with the town clerk receipt of the approval of the state secretary, and they after which the select board shall notify each household of registered voters of said revisions, and also cause to be posted in at least one public place in each precinct a map or description of that precinct, with the names and residences of the registered voters therein.

Section 8. Limitations on Powers of Representative Town Meeting. This act shall not abridge the right of the inhabitants of Amherst to hold general meetings, as that right is secured to them by the constitution of this commonwealth; nor shall this act confer upon any representative town meeting in Amherst the power finally to commit the town to any measure affecting its municipal existence or changing its form of government, without action thereon by the voters of the town at large at an annual town election, using the ballot and voter check list therefore in accordance with the applicable provisions of the general laws.

Article II - Town Meetings

Section 1. Power and Responsibilities of Moderator. A moderator shall be elected by ballot at each annual town election, and shall serve as moderator of all town meetings, except as otherwise provided by law, until a successor is elected and qualified. Nomination for and election of a moderator shall be as in the case of all other elective town officers and any vacancy in the office may shall be filled by the town meeting members at a meeting held for that purpose as the first order of business at the next town meeting following the occurrence of the vacancy. If a moderator is absent, a moderator pro tempore may shall be elected by the town meeting members. The salary of the moderator shall be \$250.

Section 2. Notification. The town clerk shall notify the town meeting members of the time and place at which representative town meetings are to be held and the notices shall be sent by mail at least seven ten days before the meeting.

Section 3. Finance Committee. There shall be a finance committee composed of seven town residents appointed by the moderator who shall provide a report in writing to each town meeting stating the financial implications of all proposed actions, if any, and their recommendation thereon. After the elected or appointed officials or petitioner responsible for a particular article shall have made their motion and given their explanation, the finance committee shall be recognized, may make a motion approved by a majority of its members, and shall present an explanation of its recommendations to the town meeting.

Section 4. Rules and Procedures. The town meeting members, as aforesaid, shall be the judges of the election and qualifications of their members, and may from time to time adopt rules or order to govern their conduct. A majority of the town meeting members shall constitute a quorum for doing business, but a lesser number may organize temporarily and may take a recess or adjourn from time to time, but no town meeting shall adjourn over the date of an election of town meeting members.

All town meetings shall be public.

The town meeting members as such elected by precinct shall receive no compensation.

Subject to such conditions as may be determined from time to time by apply to the members of the representative town meeting, any registered voter of the town who is not a town meeting member may speak at any representative town meeting, but shall not vote. Persons who are not registered voters of the town may, subject to the same conditions, speak at any representative town meeting if the town meeting agrees by that they may do so.

Section 5. Action on the Warrant. All other articles in the warrant for any town meeting, beginning with the town meeting at which said town meeting members are first elected, shall be acted upon and determined exclusively by town meeting members at a meeting to be held at such time and place as shall be set forth by the selectmen select board in the warrant for the meeting, subject to the referendum herein provided for by section eight. No article in the warrant shall at any representative town meeting shall be finally disposed of by a vote to lay upon the table, indefinitely to postpone or to take no action thereunder.

Section 6. Referendum from Actions of the Representative Town Meeting. A final vote of any representative meeting enacting or rejecting a measure under any article in the warrant, except a vote to adjourn or dissolve, or a vote authorizing the expenditure of less than five thousand dollars, or votes appropriating money for payment of notes or bonds of the town and interest becoming due in the then current financial year, or votes for temporary borrowing of money in anticipation of revenue, or a vote declared by preamble by a two-thirds vote of the town meeting members present and voting thereon to be an emergency measure, necessary for the immediate preservation of the peace, health, safety or convenience of the town, shall not be operative until after the expiration of five days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, from the dissolution of the meeting.

If within five days, a petition, signed by not less than five percent of the active registered voters of the town, containing their names and addresses substantially as they appear on the list of registered voters, is filed with the selectmen select board, asking that the question or questions involved in such vote be submitted to the registered voters of town at large, then the operation of such vote shall be further suspended pending the determination as hereinafter provided, and the selectmen select board, within ten days of the filing of receiving written certification from the town clerk of the sufficiency of the number of valid signatures upon such petition, shall call a special town meeting election, which shall be held within not earlier than fourteen thirty-five days after the issuing of the call, for the sole purpose of presenting to the registered voters at large the question or questions so involved - except that no such election shall be held between June 15 thru September 15 or December 15 thru January 31. If such petition is not filed within said period of five days or a sufficient number of signatures contained in such petition are not certified as valid, the vote of the representative town meeting shall become effective and operative upon the expiration of said period.

The question or questions to be submitted to be voted upon at said town meeting special election shall be stated on the ballot in substantially the same language and form in which they were stated when finally presented to the representative town meeting by the moderator, as appears from the records of such town meeting.

The polls shall be opened at two o'clock in the afternoon seven o'clock in the morning and shall not be closed earlier than eight o'clock in the evening, and all votes upon any question so submitted shall be taken by ballot, and the voters check list shall be used in the several precinct meetings in the same manner as in the election of town officers. No ballot shall be removed or counted before the closing of the polls.

Such question or questions shall be determined by a vote of the same proportion of voters at large voting thereon as would have been required by law had the question been finally determined at a representative town meeting, but no action of the representative town meeting shall be reversed unless at least twenty percent of all the active registered voters shall so vote; otherwise, it shall take effect immediately upon the declaration by the selectmen town clerk of the vote upon the referendum.

Article III - the Select Board

Section 1. Powers and Duties. The select board shall exercise such powers as are provided to boards of selectmen in the general laws, may initiate policy proposals or provide information for use by the administrator or other town staff, shall evaluate and take action if called for upon the recommendations of the town administrator, conduct annual budget hearings and interview department heads pursuant to making recommendations on the components of the annual town budget for which they are responsible, and shall have available the assistance of town staff.

The chair of the select board shall be the chief executive officer of the town, shall meet or designate another select board member to meet from time to time with the the town administrator and the heads of town departments for which they are jointly responsible, and shall be responsible for coordinating with the town administrator to insure the availability of staff assistance to members of the board.

Section 2. Numbers and Method of Election. At the first annual election following the acceptance of this act as amended the voters shall continue to elect by ballot in place of those selectmen select board members whose terms are about to expire an equal number of members, each to serve for three years, so that there shall continue to be a select board composed of five members.

Section 3. Filling of Vacancies. The selectmen Select board members shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified. If for any reason a vacancy or vacancies occur in the membership of the selectmen select board, the remaining members shall call a special election to fill the vacancy or vacancies for the unexpired term or terms, except that if such vacancy or vacancies occur less than three months prior to the annual election and not less than three selectmen select board members remain in office, the vacancy or vacancies shall remain until such annual election.

Section 4. Compensation of Select Board Members. Members of the select board shall receive \$2,500 per annum. The representative town meeting may vote to increase the salary of select board members by an amount not to exceed 2.5% per annum by recorded vote at any annual town meeting.

Section 5. Appointments of Election Officers, Members of Boards and Committees. The selectmen select board shall appoint thru a public process, and may remove for cause, members of the board of appeals, elections officers and the registrars of voters except the town clerk, and all members of town boards, committees, commissions, task forces, and other such bodies. Their consent shall be required for the appointment by the town administrator of the principal assessor, the finance director, the fire and police chiefs, the superintendent of public works, the town clerk, the town treasurer, and any other department head.

Section 6. Investigation or Surveys by Selectmen Select Board. For the purpose of making investigations or surveys, the selectmen select board may, subject to appropriation, employ experts, counsel and other assistants and incur other expenses.

Article IV - Establishment of Polling Places, Elections, Other Officers and Boards

Meetings of the registered voters of the several precincts for elections, for primaries, and for voting upon any question to be submitted to all the registered voters of the town, shall be held on the same day and at the same hour and at such place or places within the town as the selectmen select board shall in the warrant for such meeting election direct.

The town shall continue to elect town meeting members, a moderator, members of a school committee in accordance with the regional school agreement, the trustees of the town library in accordance with Chapter 512 of the Acts of 1972, and an elector of the Oliver Smith will, members of the Amherst Redevelopment and Housing Authorities, and county commissioners in accordance with the Hampshire County Charter, subject to any applicable provisions of the law, and the terms of office of such offices or boards shall not be interrupted. Other elective offices terminated by the initial taking effect of the Town Manager Act shall remain appointive, and shall be filled as herein provided.

Article V - the Town Administrator

Section 1. Appointment of Town Manager-Administrator. The selectmen select board elected as provided herein shall appoint, as soon as practicable, a town manager administrator who shall be a person especially fitted by training and experience to perform the duties of the office. The town manager administrator shall be appointed without regard to his gender, racial or ethnic origin, party affiliation, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs. The town manager administrator need not be a resident of the town or of this commonwealth when appointed, but within six months shall become a resident of the town and remain such while he remains in office. Before entering upon the duties of his the office, the town manager administrator shall be sworn to the faithful and impartial performance thereof by the chairman of the selectmen select board, or by the town clerk, or by a justice of the peace.

Section 2. Confirmation of Town Administrator by the Representative Town Meeting. The select board, at the town meeting following the appointment or reappointment of a town administrator, shall present the administrator to the representative town meeting for confirmation.

Section 3. Appointment of a Temporary Manager Administrator. Any vacancy in the office of town manager administrator shall be filled as soon as possible by the selectmen select board. Pending the appointment of a town manager administrator or the filling of any vacancy, the selectmen select board may designate a suitable person to perform all duties of the office except the approval of warrants. Such appointment may not exceed six months, but one renewal not to exceed a second six months may be granted.

Section 4. Acting Town Manager Administrator. The town manager administrator may designate by letter filed with the board of selectmen select board, a qualified officer of the town to perform his the duties of administrator during his the administrator's temporary absence. If the manager administrator fails to make such designation, the selectmen select board may designate an officer of the town to perform the duties of the manager administrator until she shall return.

Section 5. Compensation of Town Manager Administrator. The town manager administrator shall enter into a written contract for a period not to exceed three years with the town which shall be renewable three additional terms, and shall receive such compensation for his services rendered as the selectmen select board shall determine, but it shall not exceed the amount specifically appropriated therefor by the town.

Article VI - Powers and Duties of the Town Manager Administrator

The town administrator shall be the chief administrative and fiscal officer of the town. In addition to specific powers and duties provided in this act as amended, the town manager administrator shall have the general powers and duties enumerated in this section:

- a) The town manager shall supervise and direct the administration of all departments, commissions, boards and offices for whose function the administrator is responsible except the board of selectmen select board, the moderator, the finance committee, the school committee, elector for the Oliver Smith will, the board of appeals, the trustees of the town library, election officers and the registrars of voters;
- b) The town manager may, with the consent of the select board and the representative town meeting, in accordance with the provisions of this act as amended and except as otherwise expressly prohibited by the general laws, may reorganize, consolidate or abolish such departments, commissions, boards or offices as are under his the administrator's authority, in whole or in part; establish such new departments, commissions, boards or offices as he deems necessary; and may; and transfer the duties, powers, and appropriation when incidental to reorganization, of one department, commission, board or office to another;
- c) Except as otherwise provided in this act as amended, the town manager shall appoint on merit and fitness alone subject to provision of collective bargaining agreements and the limitations of existing appropriations and the town's personnel policies, and, subject to the provisions of chapter thirty-one of the General Laws wherever applicable, shall evaluate annually in writing and he may remove, the town clerk, the town treasurer, the collector of taxes, the board of assessors, the board of public welfare, the town planning board, the town accountant, the town counsel, and such other officers, boards, superintendents, chiefs of departments as he may deem necessary to perform functions under his authority. Town officers and employees not subject to the provisions of said chapter thirty-one shall not be removed by him the administrator except on five days' notice in writing, setting forth the cause of such removal;

- d) The town manager shall fix, subject to provision of collective bargaining agreements and the limitations of existing appropriations and the town's personnel policies, the initial compensation of all appointed town officers and employees subject to his appointment in accordance with all applicable provisions of chapter thirty-one of the General Laws, and section one hundred and eight A of chapter forty-one of the General Laws if adopted;
- e) The town manager shall attend all regular meetings of the board of selectmen select board except meetings at which his removal is being considered the board considers the administrator's removal;
- f) The town manager shall insure that all town offices keep full and complete records of his office which shall be available to the board of selectmen select board and the public upon request;
- g) The town manager shall keep the selectmen select board fully advised as to the needs of the town and shall recommend to the selectmen select board for adoption such measures requiring action by them or by the town as she may deem necessary or expedient;
- h) The town manager shall have jurisdiction over the rental and use, with the consent of the select board, of all town property except school property and property under the control of the trustees of the town library, and shall be responsible for the maintenance and repair of all town buildings except school property and property under the control of said trustees. He and, at the request of building committees appointed by the select board, shall be responsible for contracting for the preparation of plans and for the supervision of work on existing buildings or on the construction of new buildings other than school buildings and buildings under the control of said trustees. He shall maintain and repair school buildings if and to the extent that the school committee requests; and he shall maintain and repair buildings under the control of said trustees if and to the extent that they so request;
- i) The town manager shall purchase all supplies, materials and equipment and shall award all contracts for all departments of the town except the public schools and the town library unless, and to the extent that, the school committee or the trustees of the town library, as the case may be, by signed requisition so request. He shall make purchases for departments not under his supervision only upon requisition duly signed by the head of such department;
- j) The town manager shall, act as the chief fiscal officer of the town, receive all warrants for the payment of town funds prepared by the town accountant, in accordance with the provisions of section fifty-six of chapter forty-one shall be submitted to the town manager. The approval of any such warrant by the town manager administrator shall be sufficient authority to authorize payment by the town treasurer, but the selectmen select board shall approve all warrants in the event of the absence of the town manager administrator or a vacancy in the office of town manager administrator;
- k) The town manager shall administer either directly or through a person or persons appointed by him in accordance with this act as amended all provisions of general and special laws applicable to said town, all by-laws and all regulations and policies established by the selectmen select board and the representative town meeting;
- l) The town manager shall, with the consent of the select board, have the authority to employ and to discharge town counsel, to prosecute, defend and compromise all litigation to which the town is a party, and to employ special counsel whenever in the judgement of the board of selectmen select board it may be necessary;
- m) The town manager may without notice examine the affairs of any division or department under his control and have access to all town books and papers for information necessary for the proper performance of his duties;
- n) shall keep a full and complete inventory of all town property both real and personal;
- o) may authorize any subordinate officer or employee to exercise any power or duty which the administrator is authorized to perform; provided, however, that all acts which are performed under such delegation shall be deemed to be the administrator's acts;
- p) The town manager shall perform such other duties, consistent with his the office of administrator, as may be required of him by the by-laws of the town or by vote of the selectmen select board or of the representative town meeting.

Article VII - Annual Review of Administrator's Performance

The administrator shall be subject to an annual review of job performance by the select board for the purpose of fostering communication and goal setting by the select board and the administrator, assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the administrator and of those departments under the administrator's jurisdiction, and as a basis for awarding salary adjustments.

The review shall take place after the annual town meeting but prior to December first, and shall be conducted with the use of a written list of performance criteria developed by the select board. Copies of the criteria with a cover letter inviting written comment shall be mailed to town meeting members, committee members with whom the administrator has worked, and shall be available to members of the public in the select board office.

Following a period of at least one month set aside to receive written public comment, there shall be at least one opportunity at a select board meeting for the public to provide oral comments evaluating the administrator's performance, after which the select board shall, based on the their own evaluations and those of others prepare a written report, review it with the administrator, place a copy of the full report in the administrator's personnel file for future reference, and release a written summary to the public at a select board meeting.

Article VIII - Removal of Town Manager Administrator

The ~~selectmen~~ select board, by a vote of three or more members of the board, may remove the town ~~manager~~ administrator from office in accordance with the following procedure:

- a) during probationary period by a notice of termination in writing;
- b) after probationary period at least thirty days before such proposed removal shall become effective, the ~~selectmen~~ select board shall file a preliminary written resolution with the town clerk setting forth in detail the specific reasons for ~~his~~ the administrator's proposed removal, a copy of which resolution shall be delivered to the town ~~manager~~ administrator.

The ~~manager~~ administrator may reply in writing to the resolution and may request a public hearing. If the ~~manager~~ administrator so requests, the ~~board of selectmen~~ select board shall hold a public hearing not earlier than twenty days nor later than thirty days after the filing of such request.

After such public hearing, if any, otherwise at the expiration of thirty days following the filing of the preliminary resolution, and after full consideration, the ~~selectmen~~ select board by a vote of three or more members may adopt a final resolution of removal;

- c) in a preliminary resolution, the ~~selectmen~~ select board may suspend the ~~manager~~ administrator from duty, but shall in any case cause to be paid to ~~him~~ the administrator forthwith any unpaid balance of ~~his~~ salary due and ~~his~~ the administrator's salary for the next three calendar months following the filing of the preliminary resolution;
- d) the non-renewal of the contract of the town administrator shall not be considered to be a dismissal and the provisions of sections 'b' and 'c' above shall not apply.

Article IX - Budgetary Process and Fiscal Management

Section 1. Estimates of Expenditures Annual Operating Budget. On or before the sixteenth day of January of each year, the town ~~manager~~ administrator shall submit to each member of the select board and finance committee, and make available at no cost to town meeting members, a careful, detailed estimate in writing of the probable expenditures of the town government for the ensuing fiscal year, stating the amount required to meet the interest and maturing bonds and notes or other outstanding indebtedness of the town, and showing specifically the amount necessary to be provided for each fund and department, together with a statement of the expenditures of the town for the same purpose in the at least the two preceding years and an estimate of the expenditures for the current year.

~~He~~ The administrator shall also submit a statement showing all revenue received by the town in at least the two preceding fiscal years together with an estimate of the receipts of the current year and an estimate of the amount of income from all sources of revenue exclusive of taxes upon property in the ensuing year, and ~~He~~ shall report the probable amount required to be levied and raised by taxation to defray all expenses and liabilities of the town together with an estimate of the tax rate necessary to raise said amount.

For the purpose of enabling the town ~~manager~~ administrator to make up the annual estimate of expenditures, all boards, officers and committees of the town shall, upon ~~his~~ the administrator's written request, furnish all information in their possession, and before December ~~twenty-first~~ submit to ~~him~~ the administrator in writing a detailed estimate of the appropriations required for the efficient and proper conduct of their respective departments during the next fiscal year.

Section 2. Capital Improvement Program. The town administrator, with a joint capital planning committee, shall develop a capital improvement program to be presented to the select board and finance committee by March 15. The capital improvement program shall include but not be limited to, the following:

- a) a clear, concise, general summary of its contents;
- b) a listing of all capital expenditures proposed to be made, by years, during the five fiscal years next ensuing, with supporting information as to the need for each such expenditure;
- c) cost estimates, methods of financing and recommended time schedules for entering into bonded indebtedness;
- d) the estimated annual cost of operating and maintaining any new facility or piece of major equipment involved.

Article X - Acceptance and Taking Effect of These Amendments

Section 1. Acceptance. These amendments to ~~This~~ act, shall be submitted to the registered voters of the town of Amherst for acceptance at its annual town election in the year nineteen hundred and ~~thirty-six~~ ninety-nine. The vote shall be taken by ballot in accordance with the provisions of the general laws, so far as the same shall be applicable, in answer to the question, which shall be placed upon the official ballot to be used in said town election: "Shall these amendments be accepted by this town?"

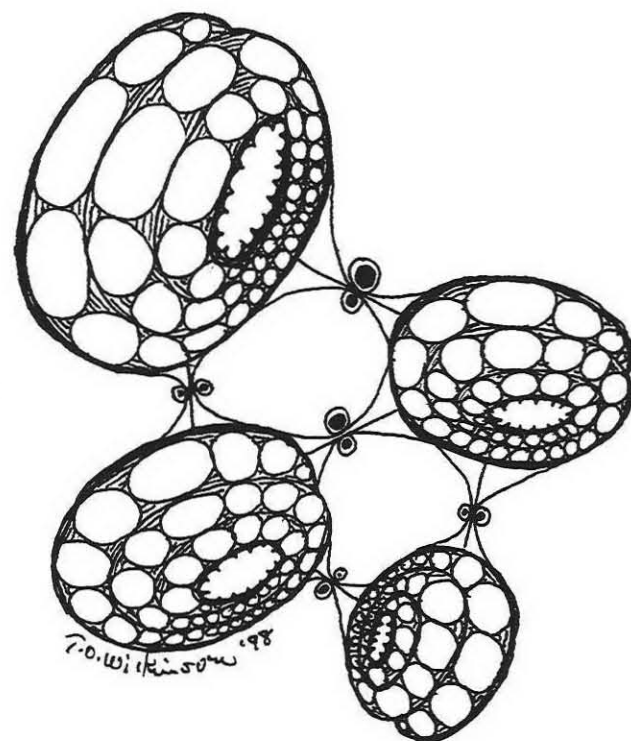
Section 2. Time of Taking Effect. If accepted by a majority of the voters voting thereon, these amendments shall take effect for all purposes incidental to the next annual town election in said town in the year ~~nineteen hundred and thirty-seven~~ two thousand, and shall take full effect beginning with said election, all other amendments shall take effect upon their acceptance.]

Action taken on 5/20/1998.

The business of the warrant having been completed the meeting voted to dissolve at 10:16 p.m. on 5/20/1998. 175 town meeting members had checked in.

Attest:

Cornelia D. Como
Town Clerk



Town Meeting Oct. 26 '98: Local votes for residential

Edited by Roy Rosenblatt, staff
and Eva Schiffer, volunteer.
Doodle on page 203, by Town Meeting Member T.O. Wilkinson.
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